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# COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

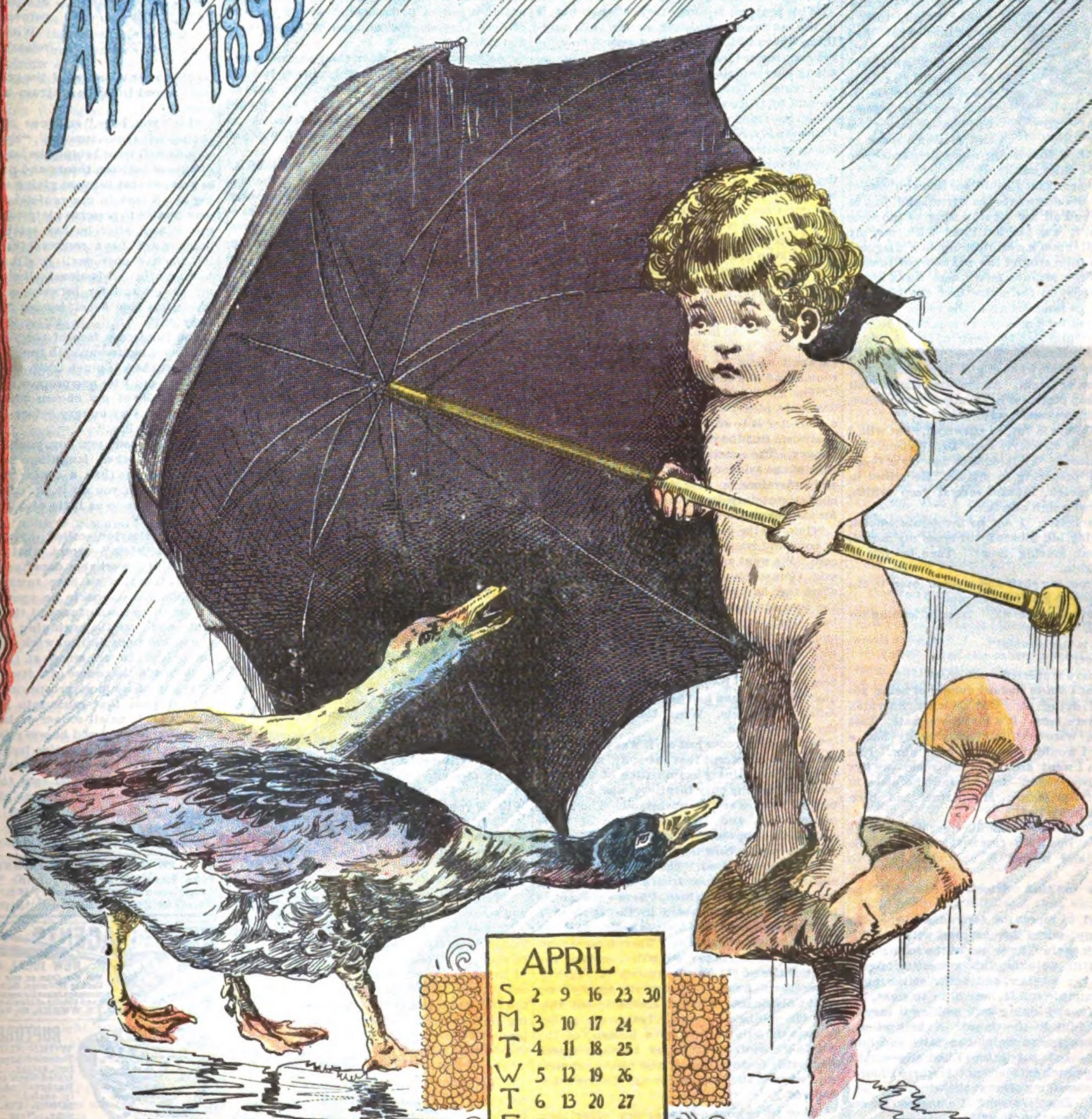
NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

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APRIL 1899.



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N.S. Edition.





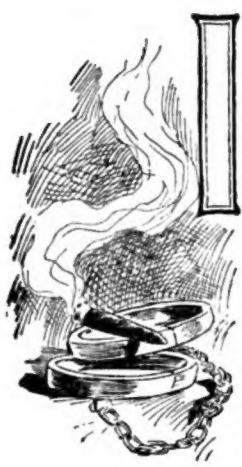
## PRIZE WINNERS FOR APRIL.

Mary Allerslee Doyle, First Prize.  
R. B. Hill, Second Prize.  
Raymond Sargent, Third Prize.  
Edward Jonett Simpson, Fourth Prize.  
Joseph S. Rogers, Fifth Prize.

## THE MYSTERY OF THE CLOSED ROOM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARY ALLERSLEE DOYLE.

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the middle of the sitting-room, preparatory to enjoying a quiet smoke.

From where I sat I could see through one of the windows down into the street, and just as I cut the end off my cigar, noting at the same time that it was the last I had with me, my glance fell upon a man running in a diagonal direction from around the next corner toward 223 B. A few seconds later there was a sound of footsteps on the stairs and the landlady ushered this same man into the room.

He paused for a moment to regain his breath. I motioned him into the chair opposite. "Are you—Mr.—Sheridan Holmes?" he gasped, trembling from what might have been utter exhaustion or fright. At the same time he felt into a cheap cigarcase in an upper vest pocket, but his fingers came away empty.

"Mr. Holmes is out," I answered, "but will, I think, be in directly. I am Dr. Watson—Dr. John Watson." I offered him the cigar that I was just preparing to smoke. He seized it, struck a match, inhaled several deep whiffs, and uttered a sigh of relief.

"That's better. I am an inveterate smoker and nothing but tobacco will brace my nerves. They need bracing now!" Then he fell to puffing again.

I rose from my chair and walked over to the mantelpiece to get Holmes' pipe.

"I am in a terrible fix," he said, leaning towards me.

"What is the trouble?"

"Murder!"

"You have murdered some one?"

"No, but I am in instant danger of being accused of doing so. Oh! I wish Sheridan Holmes were here. It's my room-mate. Last night we were out late and finally had a quarrel. I wouldn't go home with him. This afternoon I went around to the room—we live in Axminster Court—and I found the place in charge of the police. My partner had been murdered in his bed!"

The fellow had smoked his cigar down till it burnt his lips. He threw the stump at the cuspidor and missed it, and then began to fidget.

"When is that detective coming?" he groaned.

I started to repeat my assurances, when he jumped up, seized his hat, and with an "I'll come back again," flung out of the room.

I sat still watching his retreating figure through the window, and pulled at the pipe. Another minute and Holmes hove in sight, his tall figure and loping gait making it easy to recognize him in the crowd. A half minute later he was bounding up the stairs and into the room, but not before I had slipped the empty pipe back on the mantel where I found it, and resumed my place at the window.

"Hello! You, Watson? I am glad to see you. Who was the other?"

"What other?"

"Your visitor."

"Now, really—"

"Oh, come! A man was sitting here talking to you within the last three minutes."

"Well," I said, undone by his assurance, "I admit it. But first tell me how you know, and then I will tell you about him. It is important, too."

"Very simple, and quite plain. The room smells of tobacco."

"I was smoking your pipe."

"But my pipe tobacco makes a grey smoke. That blue cloud up there is from a cigar. The smell, however, is of my tobacco, showing that both were smoking at once. There is the cigar, and the dash of ashes where it fell shows that it was not thrown from your chair but from the other. All the spit marks on the cuspidor come from your direction, showing that the man in this chair, who smoked the cigar, had a habit of swallowing his saliva. The evidence is complete. Now about the visitor. Is it a case?"

"Yes. You met him just at the corner. Tall, slightly cross-eyed, a straw hat with a blue band."

"I noticed him. A collector, I should judge. By the way, I have a rather perplexing case on hand now. You will be interested. I slept late to-day and was aroused about noon by a summons from Gregson. There has been a murder or something over in Smithfield, in a place called Axminster Court."

"My visitor came to see you about that."

"Ah, he must be the room-mate of the corpse. So he came to engage me, did he? What particulars did he give you?"

"Well, really none, I think. He was very nervous, and I found that he is a nicotine fiend."

"Pshaw! Well, he will come back. I haven't had anything to eat to-day. You will join me in a bite." He rang the bell and presently the landlady brought in a dinner that she had been trying to keep warm. I helped myself sparingly and Holmes began to feed himself, talking between mouthfuls.

"This problem is likely very simple, but it baffles me more completely so far than anything I have had of late. The second floor of the Axminster Court tenement house contains a long narrow hall which opens into the various rooms. This hall is reached from the ground by two stairways, one at the back and one at the front. At the head of one of these stairways is a room occupied by a cobbler, an old ex-soldier, with a wooden leg. Next to this room is another, which has been used as a lodging by a young man named Peter Nobb, a collector and solicitor for a laundering company, and one Charlemagne Beauregard, a man of fifty years, and whose principal occupation, at least since coming to that neighborhood, has been to keep drunk on a small income. This morning Beauregard was seen about the place in his usual unsteady condition until about ten o'clock, when he went into his room and bolted the door on the inside. An hour later, Constable Hace broke into the room and found the man dead in bed with a round depression in his skull where he had been struck by the round head of a shoemaker's hammer."

"The case, as I said, is very remarkable. There are plenty of data. These are of such a character as to admit of the most satisfactory analysis. But the result is anything but satisfactory. The conclusion I reach from a full review of the evidence is that the man cannot be, and, therefore, is not, dead. But this conclusion certainly does not agree with the facts, for they have the body at the morgue."

"Here are the details in brief. Gregson came at noon and wanted me to take a look into the case. We went and found the place as I have said. Constable Hace's evidence was to the effect that he had looked through a crack in the door and had seen the dead man on the bed. He had put his shoulder against the door and burst it open. Had made sure that the man was dead, and had hurried to keep out the crowd of tenants, who were attracted by the breaking door. He had then reported to headquarters. Gregson had been detailed, and had called in Lestrade. When they were baffled they came for me."

"I found the room just as it was when Hace first broke in, except that the body was gone. I made a preliminary examination of the surroundings. The only furniture was a double bed, two chairs and a washstand. There was one window, and two doors. One of these opened into the hall; the other, into the shoemaker's room. Now to try a little analysis."

"The man was dead. The cause of his death, apparently, was a blow from a hammer which lay on the floor, and which, I have since ascertained, fits the depression in the skull to a nicety. How was this blow caused? Analysis means to divide or split up. There is more than one basis of division; we will consider the possibilities of (1) human agency (2), agency other than human. If human agency, we might divide into intent or accident; but this division will help us none. Let us say rather (a) was the hammer held by a human, or (b) was it thrown or projected through space? Then, still further, was it the victim himself who wielded the hammer, or was it some other human?"

"Now let us consider an agency other than human, first as wielding the hammer by actual contact, and second by throwing or projecting it through space."

"Before carrying the analysis any further I will speak of the examination of the surroundings I made, and then consider the questions this analysis brings out, in the light of that examination. The window was locked, and so covered by dust and spider webs as to show beyond a peradventure that nothing had passed through it in months. An examination

of the hall door showed that as the constable had thought, the door was bolted on the inside, and his rush against it had torn the staple from the woodwork. The door leading into the shoemaker's room was not bolted on either side but was locked, and the key no one could place. Moreover, the shoemaker's bench was placed across this doorway and he had been sitting there all that morning. The crack in the hall door, mentioned by Constable Hace, was too narrow to admit the passage of the hammer. The ceiling, walls and floor of the room I inspected thoroughly, and am sure that there is not an opening of any kind bigger than a small rat hole."

"Now to review the questions. Was the blow struck by the victim himself, and if so, did he hold the hammer in his hand, or throw it? I am satisfied that the wound is in such a place and of such a character that this possibility may be dismissed. Next, was some other human the immediate cause of the blow from the hammer, and if so, was it held, or was it projected through space? Only by one route could the murderer have had ingress to the room to strike a direct blow or to throw the weapon; that is, by the door across which the shoemaker's bench stood. Under this head, however, there is still another possibility. Suppose that the hammer was already in the room, before the hall door was bolted shut. It could not have been wielded on the end of a pole, for the only opening, the crack in the door, would not allow of it. But it might have been tripped by a string from a height. There was a shelf high up above the bed and I was sure I had solved the mystery; but on examination it proved to be covered with a quantity of dust that showed no sign of having been disturbed."

"As for an agency other than human, which either held or projected the hammer: It could not have been shot into the room, we have already decided. An ape could not have brought it in any more readily than a man. A rat might have tipped it off the shelf, but you can't get around the dust."

"Now we have viewed all the possibilities, and the only explanation we have is the suspicion aroused against the old shoemaker. After we had talked it all over, Gregson was so convinced of my reasoning, that he arrested the cobbler at once. To make the case stronger, the hammer with which Beauregard was killed was found to be the mate of another in the shoemaker's kit, and he acknowledged that it was his."

"But now I have a host of little witnesses whose evidence proves the old man's innocence. It seems that he makes friends with all the children in the Court, and they play in his shop. Just after breakfast, they say, they slyly tied his wooden leg to his bench, and some of them hung around all the morning to enjoy the joke when he should try to get up. Gregson admits he found him thus tied when he arrested him."

"To corroborate this evidence, I have taken out the lock of that door and found that the dusty tumblers of the lock had not been thrown for weeks, at least. Thus you see, the conclusion drawn from the most rigid deductions is that the man could not be, and is not, killed. Is it any wonder I am puzzled?"

Just at this point the landlady ushered in my visitor, Peter Nobb, the room-mate of the murdered man. And almost before he had taken the proffered seat, puffing at one of a new supply of cheap cigars, the door burst open again and in pranced Lestrade. He shook a pair of handcuffs in Nobb's face and "hissed" in the most approved penny dreadful style:

"I arrest you in the Queen's name for the murder of your dearest friend, Charlemagne Beauregard!"

The poor fellow nearly fainted. Then he began to beg Holmes to save him. Sheridan had got his pipe and was preparing for a big smoke himself. "Caught the right man, Lestrade? What is your evidence?"

"They had a very violent quarrel last night."

"Pooh!"

"Well, that isn't evidence, but it's strong probability."

"Pish!"

"Well, if you know so much, name the man you suspect. Gregson says you're stumped."

Holmes was pulling furiously at his pipe. Suddenly he struck his forehead. "I have it!" he shouted. Then he looked oddly at Lestrade. "I think (puff) when the truth (puff) comes out you and Greg (puff) son will be (puff, puff) the two worst gold men in the service. I'm going to (puff) make an arrest myself," and he jumped up and put on his hat. As he opened the door, in walked Gregson. He looked sick.

"Hello!" said Holmes. "How's your man?"

"I let him go," answered Gregson, shortly. He looked at Lestrade and the bracelets on Nobb's wrists. "Better let him go, too." He handed a sheet of paper to Holmes, who had stepped back into the room. It was a note addressed to the superintendent of division.

"Last winter," Holmes read, "a man who is now known to the public as Charlemagne Beauregard killed my brother. The circumstances were such as to make his conviction before a court impossible. I decided to take the law into my own hands. The murderer had taken a name then unknown to me and lost himself in the East Side. In order to facilitate my search, and to support myself while it lasted, as well as to ensure my escape from sus-

picion, I secured a position on the police force." Holmes stopped to chuckle. "This morning when I had located the murderer I boldly broke in his door, executed him with one blow of a hammer, and then reported the mysterious murder to headquarters, as you would have expected from your humble servant."

JOHN HACE, Constable."

"The analysis was all right," said Holmes, as he unlocked the handcuffs from Nobb's wrists, "but I didn't carry it back far enough at first. Didn't I say that you official detectives would be sold, when the truth came out?"

## A RARE INSTANCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY R. B. HILL.

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REMEMBER, young gentlemen, the instances in which you will really be called upon to disregard your professional obligations are so rare as to be scarcely worth mentioning. It is poor policy to sacrifice principle to expediency. It doesn't pay—in the truest sense of the words—in the long run. I sincerely wish you all honorable and prosperous careers."

With these closing remarks the Dean of Dental College

bowed to the members of the graduating class, and stepped from the rostrum into the faculty room.

"I tell you, boys," said one of the students, as they left the lecture-hall, "that kind of talk sounds well from behind the footlights, but the difference between theory and practice is about as great as that between giving advice and taking it. A man in our profession or any other may be able to preserve his 'professional honor' pretty well after he has established a good practice and has a respectable bank account, but when a poor devil is struggling to get a foothold the professional slips he makes are not as few and far between as angels' visits. *Necessitas non habet legem.* What say you, Drayton?"

The handsome face of the young man thus addressed lighted up with resolve as he replied:

"I fear there is much truth in what you say, Ponder; but I for one propose not to lose sight of the ethics of my chosen profession. I will have to get very hungry before I stoop to non-ethical practices."

"Nevertheless, my boy, you'll 'stoop,'" said the first speaker, laughing, "and you'll be something less than a century older than you are now when you do it, too; though I do believe you will do as little of it as any member of the class."

Calvin Drayton—called by his classmates "Earnest Calvin"—meant what he said, and it is his most remarkable departure from his determination that we have to chronicle. After receiving his sheepskin he opened an office in a flourishing town of several thousand inhabitants, and from the beginning did well, owing to conscientious, skillful work and genial manners. Had he remained at G— he would doubtless in the course of a few years have become one of its most prosperous and honored citizens; but that came into his life which must come to us all sooner or later—he loved. But when he proposed he was rejected, and being sore hurt left his native land for a foreign country. The fair object of his love told him gently, with tears in her eyes, that she was so sorry but that already she was pledged to another, who himself had, several years before, gone far away to seek his fortune.

Sad and sick at heart Calvin turned his back

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on all he held dear and became a "stranger in a strange land among strange people." He opened his office in a rough but growing town in the diamond region of South Africa, and after the first week had more work than he could do, and at prices he never dreamed of receiving; but everything was proportionately high. He had been in Diamondton about two months when one day, while he was in the midst of an operation two men walked in; one, a white man, who introduced himself as Hogan, and the other, a gorgeously-bedizened African, whom Hogan introduced as "The great Chief Wombesa, a remarkable man and one of the richest natives in Africa. He has seen some of your work," continued the man, "and he wants you to put some gold fillings in his front teeth."

"I'm not in the habit of working for negroes at home," said Drayton, "but I suppose things are different here."

"Well, rather," Hogan answered. "In this instance the condescension is on his part and the privilege on yours. Besides, if the work pleases him, he will probably give you a diamond worth several hundred dollars in payment."

"If he needs the work I will do it for him, and will accept the diamond, too, if offered, partly as an evidence that I do not agree with you as to our relative positions," said Drayton. "But speaking of diamonds," he continued, "what has this heathen to do with diamonds?"

"Oh, nothing," the Irishman replied, "except that he owns a diamond field. See that necklace of rough stones he's wearing? He has been offered one hundred thousand dollars for that several times; and he'll be swindled if he ever takes three times that amount for it."

Having finished his operation Drayton examined the mouth of the African chief, and somewhat to his surprise found his teeth almost perfect from wisdom teeth to central incisors. Turning to Hogan he told him there was not a speck of decay to be seen.

"I know that," rejoined the individual addressed. "Just go ahead and bore three or four holes in his upper front teeth—the larger the better—and fill them with gold."

Thereupon Drayton informed Hogan that he would not bore into a sound tooth, even in the mouth of a savage, in order to insert a filling, not for the value of more than one diamond. Hogan protested earnestly against this decision, telling Drayton it was not only as much as his place—that of interpreter to the chief—was worth, but that his very life would be in danger, as Wombesa had set his heart on having the work done, and expected his persuasive powers to prevail under any circumstances. Finding the dentist inexorable, Hogan seemed in despair until an idea flashed into his mind.

"What were you doing in that man's mouth just now?" he asked. "You appeared to be sticking in a tooth somehow that had a filling in it already."

"So I was," Drayton answered. "The man had lost one of his teeth by a blow, and he came to me to see what I could do for him. As the root of the tooth was sound I removed the nerve, cleaned out the nerve-canal, and inserted what is commonly called a 'pivot tooth,' first, at the special request of the patient, placing gold filling in it."

"O, I see!" exclaimed Hogan; and turning to Wombesa he spoke to him in that worthy's jibberish. For a few moments the chief's eyes gleamed fiercely and he looked at Drayton like a tiger about to spring; but as the white man continued to talk the African's face relaxed, and uttering two or three guttural grunts he pointed to his mouth, and then strode from the room.

"Be back in a few minutes," said Hogan to Drayton as he followed Wombesa. "Keep your chair vacant."

In less than fifteen minutes they returned, and as the chief entered the office he pointed again to his mouth, and his lips being drawn back from his white teeth in a broad grin, Drayton saw with amazement and disgust that his superior central incisors were gone.

"He made me knock 'em out, or rather in, with a hammer," said Hogan, in answer to a look of inquiry from Drayton. "Put two of those pivot-teeth in now, with big gold fillings in them, and if I'm not mistaken it will be the best day's work you have ever done in this business."

And so it proved, for when the work was complete and the savage beheld the shining gold fillings reflected in a mirror he seemed carried away with delight, pointing first at his teeth, a broad grin on his face the while, and then at the huge earrings and diamond necklace, with a deprecatory shake of his head, as much as to say, "I prefer this." Then he took from a dirty little leather wallet hung from his belt an uncut diamond and handed it to Drayton.

"Worth at least \$300," Hogan said, as he glanced at it.

Suddenly Wombesa turned to Hogan and spoke rapidly. When he paused the Irishman said to Drayton:

"He says he wants you to go home with him and fill the teeth of his wives and children and some of his tribe with gold; that he has more diamonds waiting for you when you get through. It would be a diamond mine for you;

## THE PARTING OF JOSEPHINE AND NAPOLEON.

Love strove with Ambition, But in Vain.

The tragedies of life are played for the most part in private. The closet which holds the private skeleton is always locked. Men and women smile on friends and guests and so hide the heartache and bitterness, which they would not have the world know of. But once in a while some typical tragedy is enacted on a high platform for all the world to gaze at. For the actors there is no privacy, no secrecy. They live in the glare of "that white light which beats upon the throne," and all their actions must be "naked and open" to the public eye.

It was so in the case of Josephine and Napoleon Bonaparte.

They were childless. The Emperor desired to found a dynasty. He wished to perpetuate a race of Emperors. The future of the Empire, his boundless ambition, the advice of counselors, all pushed him on to that final step,—divorce.



Love protested, but in vain.

That parting scene between the woman Josephine and the man Napoleon is historic.

"Low on the border of her couch they sat, Stammering and staring. It was their last hour. A madness of farewells."

For all time these two may stand as types of the unhappiness of the married who are childless.

"THE HEART KNOWETH ITS OWN BITTERNESS."

Behind closed doors in a hundred homes, the tragedy of childless marriage is being enacted. In most cases love forbids the breaking of the marriage bond. But the wife gazes hungry-eyed from her window, on the children romping in the street. And the husband coming from his office, pats some curly headed news-boy on the head, while the boy wonders why he got a dime instead of a penny for his paper. But each buries the secret longing in the heart. Each locks the skeleton away in the closet, where no prying eye may intrude upon it.

"God pity them both  
And pity us all  
Who vainly the dreams of youth recall."

Was the dream of youth vain?

Must the intense mother-longing of woman go unsatisfied?

Is there no word of hope or help for childless womanhood in this age of scientific miracles? We can only reason from what we know. We know that women craving children have tasted the joy of motherhood, when they had given up all hope of this happiness.

"I had been a sufferer from uterine trouble for about three years, having two miscarriages in that time and the doctors that I consulted said I would have to go through an operation before I could give birth to children," writes Mrs. Blanche E. Evans, of Parsons, Luzerne Co., Pa., Box 41. "When about to give up in despair I saw the advertisement of Dr. Pierce's medicine and thought I would give it a trial as a last resort. I bought a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and after taking it felt better than I had for years. Felt improved before I had taken one-half of the bottle. After taking four and a half bottles I gave birth to a bright baby girl who is now four months old and has not had a day of sickness. She is as bright as can be. I cannot say too much in praise of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription."

SINGULAR BUT NOT SOLITARY.

The case of Mrs. Evans may be singular but it is not solitary. This is only one case out of many in which Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has proved the "one thing needful."

"For five years my wife was in an almost helpless condition, suffering from female weakness," writes J. S. Everitt, Esq., of Hagerman, Washington Co., Fla. "Last September I decided to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. She took several bottles of the medicine and gave birth to a ten pound son on January 31st, 1898. She is now sound and well and doing housework."

These cases are less wonderful than they seem. There is no magic or miracle about the results achieved by the use of "Favorite Prescription." Motherhood is the natural privi-

lege of women. When this privilege is denied it is often because of local diseases which stand in Nature's way. Cure these diseases and the obstruction is removed. The orderly processes of Nature are carried out on creation's original plan. The one thing "Favorite Prescription" does is to put the woman in harmony with Nature. It regulates the periods, dries up the debilitating drains, cures inflammation, ulceration and displacement. It puts the delicate organs of motherhood in a condition of perfect health. Nature does the rest.

The way for motherhood is prepared by "Favorite Prescription," but more than this the way is cleared of all the stumbling stones of doubt and dread on which so many women fall. The time spent in preparing the tiny wardrobe is a time of happy anticipation. There is no depression, no nervousness. And when the hour of trial comes, it is so brief, and the baby's advent so easy that it seems a dream instead of a reality.

HELP AND PROTECTION FOR MODEST WOMEN.

Any sick or ailing woman may consult Dr. Pierce by letter without fee or charge, thus avoiding the unpleasant questions, the offensive examinations and repulsive local treatment

considered necessary by many local physicians. Consultation by correspondence with Doctor Pierce is under the seal of the strictest privacy. All statements are held as sacred confidence and a prompt answer is mailed in a plain envelope, bearing upon it no printing whatever. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

It is well to remember that the offer of free medical advice made by Doctor Pierce, is almost without precedent:

First—Because Dr. Pierce is qualified legally and by a physician's training and experience to give the medical advice he offers.

Second—Because in more than thirty years of practice, in which the treatment and cure of diseases of women have been made a specialty, Dr. Pierce has gained an experience which puts him in the front of all specialists in the treatment of female disorders and diseases.

Third—Because as chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y., Dr. Pierce has surrounded himself with nearly a score of assistant physicians, each man a graduated and legally qualified physician; each man a specialist in the treatment of some form of disease.

Fourth—Because the record of cures by Dr. Pierce's treatment is phenomenal. In more than thirty years of practice half a million women have been treated and ninety-eight per cent. of all these have been absolutely and altogether cured.

There are others who make offers of medical advice similar to that of Doctor Pierce. But no such offer has behind it a medical institution like the Invalids' Hotel and a staff of qualified physicians, or such a genuine record of cures.

Women for their own sakes should investigate offers of medical advice—otherwise they may be led to "write to a woman," supposing they are writing to a qualified physician and getting genuine medical advice. Investigation would show that behind such an offer there was no qualified medical knowledge, but probably some man, who unable to write M. D. after his name, was using a woman as a bait, to attract women into a correspondence. In any case the medical advice of an unqualified woman is just as dangerous as the medical advice of an unqualified man.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription contains neither cocaine, opium nor any other narcotic, and is also entirely free from alcohol, whisky and every other stimulant or intoxicant.

Do not allow any dealer to sell you something else in place of "Favorite Prescription." If you want the cures performed by "Favorite Prescription" you can only get them by using the only medicine which performs such cures. When you ask for Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, refuse all substitutes or imitations. Free. Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, containing 1008 pages, is sent free on request. This great work discusses questions of vital interest to every woman, married or single. It is sent absolutely free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for paper covered edition,

or 31 stamps for the same edition in strong and handsome cloth covers. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

and you would come back in a month or so—if nothing happened to prevent—a comparatively rich man."

"You wouldn't advise me to go then?"

"If I were in your place I would be sorely tempted to do so, in spite of the fact that more than one 'buckra' has gone into his section of the country and never been heard of since. However, if he continues pleased with your work, and did not give you so many diamonds in payment as to desire before you get away to re-possess himself of them, you might return in safety."

He went. And, as a week later, he stood face to face with Thompson Adler, who was Olive Wright's lover, he believed he knew what the impelling force had been. As this sun-tanned, hollow-eyed man told him of all he had endured for the last two years, since being made a prisoner in the African village, he felt that he was bound by the ties of common brotherhood to attempt his rescue, even if he had not promised the woman they both loved to try and find him and send him back to her. Adler told him of his adventures since arriving in Africa, which, in few words were as follows: He had landed at Diamondton about three years before with nothing. By hard work and close economy he had at the end of the first year laid aside some hundreds of dollars. These hard-earned dollars he had invested in those things dear to the African heart and started out on a trading expedition. Reaching Wombesa's village he bought some skins, and other things of the kind. Chancing one day to look at some colored pebbles with which a child was playing he noticed what looked like several rough diamonds among them. He was a jeweler by trade, and closer inspection convinced him that these were genuine stones.

"And right there my troubles began," said Adler bitterly. "Instead of pocketing the stones and saying nothing about it, I carried them to old Wombesa and offered to buy them. He went wild at once, took the stones from me, and said if I did not find others he would kill me. Neither he nor his people had dreamed that there were diamonds in their midst, and although they had no idea of their real value they knew they were precious. I was carried to the place where the said stones had been picked up, and with threats of death compelled to find others. Once I tried to escape, taking with me a few fine stones, which I had managed to conceal in spite of all their watching. I was caught, the diamonds recovered, and I was beaten into insensibility. When I recovered they put me to hunting diamonds again, and gave me to understand that the next time I would suffer death. That was long ago. More than once of late, after having been thoroughly searched, they have hinted that I might go if I wished, as several of the tribe now know a diamond when they see it pretty nearly as well as I do. But I have succeeded, at very great risk, in concealing eight fine stones, and I cannot leave without them. Help me—think of some way," he said, appealing to Drayton, "and you may select any two of the eight you wish."

Drayton racked his brain for a few minutes, and then said, half jestingly, "I will tell you how you can conceal four of them if they are small enough."

"How?" asked the other, almost springing from the operating chair where he had been since Drayton had completed the last filling in his mouth. "Quick, man!" he exclaimed excitedly.

"Suppose I remove the four fillings I have placed in your molar teeth; could you get the diamonds into the empty cavities?"

"Take out one of them—the largest—and let me see. Hurry, for the love of Heaven!"

"Not large enough by nearly half!" he groaned, as he saw the reflection of the cavity in a mirror; "but can't you make that fully twice as large by removing the interior of the tooth, and so with others?"

"Of course I could, but only by sacrificing sound tooth structure, and that would not be legitimate dentistry."

"Not 'legitimate dentistry'! Fellow are you crazy, or would you make me so?" and he glared at Drayton like a wild beast. For a moment he stood thus, and then sinking back into the chair said, in a voice painful in its forced calmness, "Now you can either prove the sincerity of your love by making the largest possible space in eight of my back teeth, or else you can prove yourself a sham and a fraud by not doing it; for I solemnly swear that I will not leave here without those diamonds, and I feel that this is my only chance!"

It was asking much of Drayton, the loss of his sweetheart, for he found that hope still lived, and an infraction of the code of ethics; but he rose to the occasion, solacing himself somewhat with the thought that it was one of those "rare instances" of which old Dean Bate-man spoke.

The natives did not think to look beneath the thin cap of gold which Drayton fitted into each cavity where the diamonds were secreted, and in due time the white men were allowed to depart in peace.



## THE HARLEY CASE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY RAYMOND SARGENT.

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NE of the saddest stories that I remember during my thirty years of newspaper life was that of young Harley. His case was the biggest sensation that Chicago had had for years. Harley was the cashier of the Broad Street Bank, and was arrested for embezzlement, tried and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. Two days later he was found dead in his cell. I remember the facts perfectly.

Harley had for years been the trusted servant of the bank. He moved in the best society, apparently had no bad habits, was a sociable, whole-souled, hearty young fellow, with a good, honest face and the frankest and clearest of blue eyes. At the bank he had worked up to the position of cashier, and though one of the youngest in the country, showed exceptional ability and enjoyed the highest confidence of all. One Monday morning he failed to appear. Nothing was suspected from this; Harley had been intending to go on a vacation, having been much overworked, and had given the combination of the vault to the assistant cashier. When this assistant, however, had opened the vault, it was found that it had been robbed—not a cent in cash, nor a paper of any value remained.

The police were at once notified and then for the first time suspicion fell upon Harley, for the police stated that on Sunday afternoon he had telephoned headquarters and notified them that he intended to open the bank vault in order to get out his books. When the automatic burglar alarm on the Broad Street Bank vault rang half an hour later, it was unheeded.

At once the police in all parts of the country were notified of Harley's disappearance. On the afternoon of the same day word was received that he had been captured, and was being brought back for trial.

I was assigned to report that trial. The evidence against Harley was overwhelming, yet somehow, I never felt that the boy was guilty. He told a straight story. He had been promised a vacation, he said. He was told he could take it at any time and feeling tired and nervous on Sunday morning, had decided suddenly to go for a week. His assistant had been given all necessary instructions and he could wire the directors on Monday morning as to his whereabouts. Then it occurred to him that the money he had saved for his vacation was in the bank vault for safe keeping. Accordingly, he had gone to the bank, where he telephoned police headquarters and told them about the burglar alarm, and said that he was going to open the vault himself to get out his books. He said this, he explained, because he was in a hurry and wished to avoid unnecessary explanations. He had then taken his money and gone away, leaving everything as he had found it. He had taken an afternoon train for Woodley. Arriving, he had gone at once to bed and slept late into the morning. When he finally arose he started for the telegraph office, but on the way met a young lady, an old acquaintance, and for the time forgot his errand.

This was all of Harley's story. He was found at the Woodley House by the local police. His explanation sounded plausible and no cross-examination could shake him. The bank officials admitted that they had promised him a vacation. Harley's friend at the Woodley House testified to the truth of his story as far as she was concerned. The proprietor of the hotel stated that Harley had taken a room for a week. The fact that he had remained so near the city was emphasized by his lawyer. No guilty man would have done such a foolish thing.

On the other hand the fact remained that the bank had been robbed. The prisoner admitted that he had opened the vault. Nobody else but his assistant knew the combination and he accounted for every minute of his time from leaving the bank Saturday until the discovery of the robbery on Monday. Harley's departure, his failure to notify the bank officials of his whereabouts, and his falsehood to the police, all acted against him. The case was a clear one and I noticed that Harley's lawyer seemed to have little faith in his client, but went through his part mechanically, as if expecting defeat. The verdict of guilty was no surprise.

Two days later the papers were full of another sensation, Harley's suicide. With everybody against him, a nervous wreck from over-work and worry, the dishonor of a long term in prison staring him in the face, he had broken down completely and hanged himself in his cell, using his bed clothes for that purpose.

This closed the affair and people in a great city forgot such things very soon. As I have said, I always had a belief in the innocence of the boy, and did not forget the case easily.

Consequently when, a few years ago, and fully ten years after the Harley case had passed from the public mind, I picked up the latest number of a magazine of short stories, and glanced at the contents, my eyes were at once caught by the title, "The Bank Mystery, by Edward Olney." Lazily I began to read, but with increasing interest, and at its end I was most forcibly impressed by its similarity to the Harley case. The story even offered a solution to the mystery.

Either the writer remembered the case, and had imagined the sequel, or somebody had told it to him. The idea struck me that the author

of that story could tell me something interesting about the Harley case. Finally I decided to look him up, and have a talk with him. This was an easy matter. Mr. Olney received me pleasantly.

"Where did I get the plot of that story?" he said. "Why, that's quite a story in itself. Last year our summer home was broken into, and I succeeded in capturing one of the burglars, and tied him into a chair. I sent my son for the village police, and as the village was some distance away, I was left for an hour watching my prisoner. I had long wished to talk with a genuine burglar, and under the influence of some strong wine, this one, surly at first, became very talkative, and told a most picturesque story of his life. Among other incidents he told the story you are asking about. He was such an interesting chap that I confess I didn't feel particularly sorry later when I heard he had escaped from the police on his way to the jail. I should know the man anywhere. He seemed to have a nervous affection, for his face and hands twitched incessantly. Besides, he was very tall, and had a head of very bushy red hair."

I was convinced that if I could find Mr. Olney's burglar, I could solve the Harley case. Fortune favored me soon after, for on visiting police headquarters, I was told of the capture of a daring burglar, and was allowed to see him. Imagine my satisfaction when I discovered that he was the same man described by Mr. Olney. He refused to talk at all.

On my way home I laid out a plan of action. I called that night on a friend of mine, Professor Le Bon, who was quite an expert in the art of hypnotism. To him I explained my plan, and he gladly agreed to assist.

Next day we called at the police station and were shown to the cell of the burglar. While I talked with him, or rather at him, for he said nothing, the professor exerted all his power to bring the man under his influence. For a time he seemed doomed to disappointment, but at length the burglar turned and faced the professor, his gaze having a fixed stare.

"Now," said my friend, "call the officers, and we'll have his story in no time."

The experiment worked like a charm. Before the inspector and three officers the burglar did whatever the professor commanded.

"Can't you tell us about the Broad Street Bank robbery?" suggested my friend.

The burglar smiled. "Why of course," he said. "I did that job. I'd been watching that bank for weeks, and was across the street when Harley went in. I slipped in after him; he was at the telephone and I heard what he said about the burglar alarm. Then he started to open the vault. A knock on the head, my boy, when you get her open, and I won't need to blow it, I thought. Then I decided on a safer plan. I had a stout piece of wire in my pocket that I used in my business. As the vault door swung open Harley stepped inside. I sprang behind the door, and slipped the wire into the lock in such a way that the bolts wouldn't fall into place when the door was shut. I got into the directors' room just as Harley came out of the vault. It was risky, but I had two chances. If he had seen me, I would have shot him, and got what I could. But he didn't see me. He came out, swung the great door to, turned the tumbler to throw the bolts, and went out. After he had gone, I had no trouble in opening the vault again. The wire had kept the lock from working, and Harley in his hurry had not noticed it. I cleaned the place out at my leisure, for I knew the burglar alarm wouldn't work, fixed the vault all right and went out the front door, which fastened with a spring lock. Next day I read in the paper that Harley was arrested, but as I was leaving for Australia I couldn't go to the trial. I just got back last week."

The professor snapped his fingers and the burglar came to his senses, as surly and quiet as ever.

"My friend," smiled the inspector, "we'll see if we can't make matters interesting for the Broad Street Bank burglar."

## A STUDENT'S STORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY EDWARD JOUETT SIMPSON.

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WHEN I was at the Law-school it was my fortune to have as my most intimate friends the two "biggest" men in the University; Harris, the curly-headed giant of the foot-ball eleven, and John Holcomb, a shining star in the lecture rooms. Holcomb was also a perfectly "set up" man and so was, of course, urged to don the canvass jacket, when, it was freely predicted, he would run Harris a sharp race for the honors of the gridiron.

To these pleadings Holcomb persistently turned a deaf ear—why, was known, or rather surmised, by only a few of his intimates. Sad to relate, this young fellow—brilliant, handsome, accomplished in all that we are wont to consider the graces of culture and refinement—had yet one vice, or habit, which threatened to involve in ruin any career which the world might have in store for him. Whiskey, love of strong drink, held him with a chain, a passion which I have seldom seen equaled in men man years his senior.

How he so easily maintained his lead at the head of his classes was a mystery to the few who knew his habits; but we believed that even he feared to dare the tempter to the long struggle, the self-restraint, which the foot-ball training season would necessitate—"breaking

# A Worn-Out Fad.

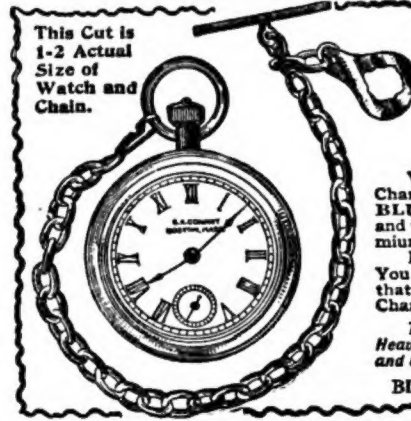
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training" being the unpardonable sin in the University foot-ball world.

Harris and I loved this brilliant fellow and tried our best to protect him from his one weakness. I had heard of such a craving handed down from father to son, an incurable disease, but his father was a distinguished Judge of his State's highest Court, sobriety itself, so such a hypothesis in this case went for nothing.

One boisterous winter night Harris and I were seated before the fire in my room, enjoying a quiet smoke, when Holcomb joined us. I saw at a glance that he had been drinking. He was in one of his brilliant humors, however, and speedily took all the talking on himself; for an hour he held us spellbound. Finally—just as he had finished one of his favorite legends of the Rhine, I remember—he took a silver flask from his pocket and raised it to his lips. Almost involuntarily Harris and I leaned toward him, as though to catch his hand; but with a laugh he pushed his chair beyond our reach.

"Just one, boys, and then Bob can throw it away," he said, and we were necessarily content.

His drink was a small one, for his shame of his passion was almost as great as the passion itself, and then he tossed the flask over to me. Stepping into my bedroom, I locked it in a drawer, and when I came back I found the poor fellow pacing back and forth across the floor like a caged tiger. This was his habit when one of his fits of remorse was on him—I had seen him when he was so weak that his limbs would barely support him, totter up and down, up and down the room—so I took my seat and said nothing.

Harris was busy pouring a double-handful of tobacco into the bowl of his pipe—it held a pound, more or less; he called it Vesuvius—but he looked across at me and shook his head, and I saw tears standing in the big-hearted fellow's eyes.

Presently Jack spoke, and his voice was husky:

"I have a story I want to tell you fellows. I don't know why I never told you before; and I don't know why I am going to tell you now. Maybe it will make you understand more clearly how this cursed drink has gotten such a hold on me." He paused a moment and then went on: "God knows I don't offer it as an excuse—but it is my only excuse, for I wasn't always such a weak fool as you see me now."

He came back to his chair in front of the fire and sat down wearily. We were quiet enough in the room, but outside the storm was still raging. The wind roared and whistled through the pines and around the sharp corners, and gusts of hail and sleet at intervals beat heavily against the windows; the limbs of the "Old Patriarch" at the corner scraped mournfully against the roof above us as if begging shelter for its time-worn life.

"First of all," Jack began at last, "Judge Holcomb is not my father. Twenty-five years ago to-night—and they say that it was just such a wild, stormy night as this—I was found snugly tucked away in a basket inside his door. No one about the house knew who left me, or how long I had been there. There was no sign whatever on my clothing or in the basket as to my parentage; not even an initial from which they might guess by what name I was to be called. Of course the Judge made inquiries—he even had detectives work on the case—but there was never a trace of my parents found. Finally it was given up, and the Judge adopted me, gave me his own name, and I was taken to his heart and his wife's as if I had been of their own flesh and blood. They had no children of their own, and I received all the love and tenderness of an only child. To make a long story short, I grew up much as other boys around me, going to school and to college, the Judge sparing no money or pains to give me the best of educations.

"Our nearest neighbor was a Mr. Ransome. He and the Judge had been close friends ever since they were boys at school, had married sisters, and had lived heretofore by side for years. I was almost as devoted to 'Aunt Mary's, as I was to my own home.

"About three years after I had been left at Judge's, Mr. and Mrs. Ransome likewise adopted a child. They were visiting Mr. Ransome's brother in another state, and this little girl had been found at the house one night much in the same way as myself; at her little neck was pinned a slip of paper with 'Ethel' written on

it. Mr. Ransome brought her home with him, and crowded mightily over the Judge at having a nice little lady rather than a good-for-nothing clumsy boy. As we grew up we were naturally thrown together a great deal, and—but I suppose you have guessed that part of my story already; we became sweethearts, and built our fairy-castles as all children do.

"When I was seventeen years old I went off to college, and Ethel cried as though her little

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heart would break; and it took all of my pluck to keep my tears back. Three years passed before we saw each other again; she also went away to school and it so happened that we had our vacations at different times. College life affected me as it does all boys, and I gradually forgot my girl-sweetheart. The third summer, however, we were at home together. I expected, as a pompous Senior, to give my little cousin an affectionate kiss and pat her condescendingly on the head; but I didn't. It was the old story; I had left a jolly, impetuous girl and came back to find a woman. I did not kiss her; but when she came into the room the stately personage who had asked so grandly about 'the little girl' could only take her hand in the greatest embarrassment and murmur some unintelligible words, supposed to be of greeting. Even in my confusion I noticed how the old gentlemen smiled at each other.

"Our mutual shyness soon wore off and gradually we took up the old life again, though it could nevermore be the same. But though all of that boy-and-girl life and boy-and-girl love was a thing of the past never to come again, I found that my old affection still existed as did hers; in a different way we felt it, but the old love was still there. Although I had left the girl and found the woman, I had found the same nature. The happy disposition, the bright laugh and humor were still there as of old; the love of fun and teasing was only a little more gentle, and all the more winning. And behind and through it all shone that worship of truth that had so often brought swift punishment to our childish pranks.

"At the end of that short summer I was wildly, passionately in love. I went back to college and got my degree with the first honor—for a fellow works hard, you know, when there is a woman at home expecting great things of him. "Our engagement was announced to our nearest friends. Both the Judge and Mr. Ransome opposed a marriage while we were so young, but finally it was arranged that I should take a post-graduate course for one year, and the wedding should follow in the summer. So I departed for my last term at college.

"There was in town a young fellow named McRea, the only son of a rich banker. Although older than I, years before we had been rivals in our sports at school. He was not of much natural ability as an athlete, but he had ambition, backed by pluck and perseverance. Two consecutive years he and I had been the final contestants for the all-round championship at the field-day games, and I had beaten him both times; the last time so decisively as to cause a good deal of laughter at his expense. He was one of those vain fellows who cannot stand defeat, and he vowed bitterly that one day he would get even with me. He developed into a brilliant, polished man, with an easy, frank manner that was very fascinating. Though his bad habits were not generally known, he was a gambler and a rake, at heart utterly unprincipled.

"When Ethel returned from school he was among the first to pay her attention, and speedily fell deeply in love. At first, I believe, she liked him, but as she got a further insight to his real nature, and at the same time saw how serious his intentions toward herself were becoming, she discouraged him all she could. At last, after a somewhat painful scene, he was brought to realize that his suit was in vain. Then, man of the world though he was, he lost complete control of himself and went away swearing deadly vengeance against me—that if he could not have her, I never should—for he judged that I was the cause of his new humiliation.

"I knew none of these details until long afterwards. He went to gambling more recklessly than ever, and it was only through his father's influence that he was enabled to hold his responsible position at the bank.

"Well, another year at college, and I came home for good. The wedding was to take place the 15th of July—Wednesday. Ah! fellows, it is when I think of those weeks of happiness that I must have whiskey to keep from thinking."

Jack paused and stared straight before him into the fire, struggling to conceal his strong emotion. I glanced across at Harris, but Vesuvius was going at full blast now, and the clouds of smoke he was incessantly blowing forth almost hid him from view. It was a sure sign that he was deeply interested.

"Well," came his voice out of the smoke, rather nervously, "go on."

"Wednesday night, just one week before the day set for the wedding," Jack continued, "I left Mr. Ransome's house about ten o'clock. Usually I went home through the yards, the houses being only a short distance apart, but as it was raining, and the ground was soft and wet, I went down the walk to the street. Just as I passed out of the gate, a tall slender man passed me, walking hurriedly. He had on a long rubber coat, with the collar turned up, but there was a street-light near, and I thought I recognized McRea. I remembered that this was his way home from the bank, and supposing that he had been detained by business, I went on without giving him another thought. A few yards further on I met another pedestrian. This was a large, heavy man, rather poorly dressed, and he was also walking very rapidly.

"When I got home I found the Judge down in the front hall. He had just come down in answer to a ring at the bell, but had found no one, and after looking around a little, had decided that it was merely some boyish trick, and started to go back. Then he noticed a note pushed under the door, and was reading it as I came in. Here it is."

Jack took a paper from his pocket-book, and handed it to me. It was a sheet of plain note-paper, folded twice, a little soiled, and addressed to Judge Holcomb. The writing was uneven and sprawling, probably disguised. At Jack's request I opened it and read:

"JUDGE AND MRS. HOLCOMB:—You are about to commit a great and terrible wrong—a crime. John Holcomb and Ethel Ransome (as they are known to you) must not marry; they are brother and sister. When the boy was left with you and the girl in another state, it was never dreamed that such a state of affairs could come to pass. You and Mr. Ransome (the brother of the one who actually adopted the girl) were chosen because you were known to be kind-hearted, Christian people, who would treat in the kindest manner two little unfortunates whose parents found it impossible to raise under their care. It is equally impossible for me to let my identity be known now; whiskey is the cause of it all. In the name of God, of morality, and of nature, I implore you to prevent this marriage, which could only end in suffering and degradation. I have tried to warn you sooner, but my efforts failed. Do not disregard this, or your future life can only be one of repentance and sorrow.

THEIR FATHER."

"The devil!" ejaculated Harris, and then we sat silent.

Jack continued: "We immediately hurried out and made search for the stranger I had met, and young McRea, but could find neither. The next morning it was discovered that McRea had run away with thirty thousand dollars belonging to the bank, and neither he nor the stranger has ever been heard of since. And that is all."

When I was awakened the next morning by my "sweep," he gave me a note which explains itself:

"DEAR BOB:—Have just been called home by telegraph. It seems that McRea returned home and the police captured him. There was a fight and McRea is dying and wants to see me. Yours hastily, J. HOLCOMB."

One week later, Christmas morning, coming down to breakfast at home, I found a fat envelope on my plate, addressed in a hand I knew well. As I opened it a newspaper clipping fluttered on to the table. I picked it up and read:

TO BE MARRIED.

HOLCOMB-RANSOME. On Wednesday evening, December 31st, at eight o'clock, at the residence of the bride's adopted parents, Ethel Ransome to John Holcomb.

## AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JOSEPH S. ROGERS.

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TOM Slocum had been drinking heavily of late. As he came down the steps of his boarding house his hands shook nervously and there was a certain stooping forward of his broad shoulders not in keeping with his sturdy physique.

The evening before he had caroused at "The Fisherman's Rest" until midnight and now the terrible after-thirst was upon him; but he resolutely turned his back upon the town and walked slowly along the beach.

It was a lovely summer morning, cloudless and balmy. A strong breeze came from the south, fanning the surface of the water into long, leaping ridges of white, coral-like spray. Far out over the sun-lit sea a score of dazzling sails were scattered, while here and there the huge form of an ocean voyager stood out distinct and clear against the pale, blue horizon.

On the beach a pretty little girl of two summers was at play in the sand and near by stood her nurse, watching.

Tom Slocum passed on until he came to a ridge of rugged boulders, jutting into the water. Here he sat down and looked back listlessly at the child. The nurse was going towards one of the cottages some distance ashore, but the little girl sat there content in the occupation of scooping up handful after handful of the sand and letting the minute grains run slowly through her tiny fingers.

Tom Slocum looked out over the ocean. There was a moisture in his eyes for the sight of the child affected him strangely. He had been letting those selfsame golden sands slip unheeded through his fingers ever since he had become a man. What a life he had led! Drink, drink, drink! Every dollar he had made by renting his fishing sloop—for he had never done a day's work—had gone the same way, every good impulse he had put aside. And now no one cared for him—not even she who had once been his sweetheart. Ah well, she was right—they were all right—he deserved his fate. He had smothered remorse in his heart, never done better, never even tried. He might try now but—Then a dull apathy came upon him and he brooded over his mind. He bowed his head and strove not to think. He heard the voice of the child down on the sand and the monotonous lap of the waves against the rocks and—the beating of his own heart. He raised his aching eyes until they rested upon the radiant sails of the fishing vessels. The men on them, he knew, were toiling for their wives and children and an honest livelihood. They had a purpose in life—why not he? Was it too late, even now? A light of mingled hope and resolve came upon his face and his eyes grew lustrous.

Aye, the people would laugh at him, but what of that—he would, yes, with God's help, for once he would turn over a new leaf!

He arose and straightened himself. Then, with a certain gratefulness in his heart, he thought of the child. Ah, she was gone. How quickly she must have scampered ashore. He was scrambling down the rocks to go back to the village to a new life of honest endeavor and filled with hope and—love, perhaps, when something white just out from the place on the shore where the child had been, attracted his attention. He sprang from the boulder and ran panting to the spot. Without a moment's hesitation, he threw off his coat and plunged boldly into the water. A dozen strokes and he had gained the child and grasped her clothing. Then, for the first time he found himself getting weak. It was far more difficult coming in than going out. He had been a strong man, but dissipation had softened the muscles that were once like iron. He strove bravely against the force that threatened to carry him and the child out into the deep. As yet no harm had come upon her for her dress of some thick, stiff fabric—had not readily taken up the moisture, and she had almost been floating upon the water. She would be entirely safe now in a minute—three more strokes and he would reach the shore. But suddenly a dull whiteness spread over his face. His legs became stiff and numb as if paralyzed. He was powerless to move them. Then, at the thought of the child perishing away from its mother, a look of terror came into his eyes. With a great effort

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Eczema, salt rheum, acne, scaly eruptions, pimples, psoriasis, ring worms, barber's itch, and all disorders of the skin and blood. Falling hair, baldness, premature grayness, loss of lustre, scurf, scales, dandruff, irritation, itching and all affections of the hair and scalp. Sleeplessness, irritability, loss of energy and all nervous troubles. The complexion if clouded with blotches, liver spots, moth, tan, freckles, or if the skin is too thick, too thin, dingy and sallow, slick, oily, rough, or red, it can be speedily, completely and permanently cleared of these and all other annoying disorders and disfiguring blemishes no matter from what cause, where located or of how long standing.

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We realize that it is not always convenient or possible for everyone to personally visit us, and therefore have formulated and adopted a plan whereby all who are afflicted as described above can receive as good treatment at their homes as they can at our Institute, provided all questions in our blank are freely and carefully answered. By this method which we have employed for a number of years with entire success, we are enabled to accurately diagnose any case and prepare a Special Home Treatment that will afford immediate relief with the absolute certainty of a speedy and permanent cure if used according to our directions. All remedies we prescribe are specially prepared in our laboratory to meet the requirements of each individual case, and the most careful attention is given to patients while under Home Treatment, which in no way interferes with their daily duties.

Write at once for question blank which is mailed free and get full particulars. Consultation either by letter or in person is free and strictly confidential, and our fee is considered extremely moderate considering the great good accomplished by our treatment.

**John H. Woodbury, D.I.,** 26 West 23d Street, New York. 163 State Street, Chicago.

he straightened himself in the water and then with superhuman strength, he hurled his burden towards the shore. Aye, she had fallen just out of the sweep of the waves! A smile came over the face of the man and without an effort he sank back into the water.

A moment later, the nurse came tripping down to the shore. Catching sight of the child lying limp and motionless upon the sand, she rushed forward and seized her in her arms. Then without casting a glance back over the sea, she turned and ran frantically towards the cottage.

At dusk, when the tide came in, the body of a man was washed ashore—down where the fishermen were unloading their nets. The minister was passing at the time and some one called to him. It was rapidly growing dark, so one of the men lighted a match and held it close to the motionless form of the man. His black hair was glossy with salt-water and tangled with sea-weeds, but a calm smile rested upon the cold, upturned face.

"Why it's Tom Slocum, the ne'er do well," said the man.

"Drunk and fell overboard," said another.

And the minister, raising his eyes toward the darkening heavens, muttered:

"Yea, 'tis a judgment."

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## Among Our New Possessions.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHEN we remember that it is less than a year ago that the Spanish war broke out we can hardly realize the tremendous changes that have come to our American nation in that time. Should one of COMFORT's readers inquire among friends it would be a source of surprise to learn how little the average intelligent reader really appreciates the geographical facts connected with the war. It is almost extraordinary how the popular idea is often wrong both as to geographical position and other facts relative to our new possessions. If one doubts this let him ask himself a few questions and then look at the maps and see how near the truth his belief may be.

Probably a year ago this time but few of us knew or cared about the Philippines, or could have given anything but the most vague information of Manila. In the last few months we have learned much but we think none of us have sufficient information to enable us to say what will be best for the future of the Filipinos. For this reason it seems to COMFORT that President McKinley should be given time to correctly ascertain more about the islands and their people before giving a definite policy for the future.

Events have not been very noticeable in Manila for the past month. The American line has been much extended and was so thin around the city that it was impossible to withdraw troops to make further advances. The successful advance of the Americans always makes the circle of defence around the city larger and makes the line thinner.

In ordinary warfare it is calculated that a line of five miles can be held by twenty thousand soldiers. Now at Manila the lines are about twenty-five miles in extent and only about that number are holding the full extent. If our readers will stop to think of one thousand men holding more than a mile of line, against any part of which a whole army of desperate fighters may be hurled, while but few reinforcements can be spared for any attacked point, they will not wonder that it was possible for six hundred Filipinos to break through our lines and burn many houses; but not without a loss of the whole outfit. The cut at the top of this article shows a native house, by which the reader will observe that the burning of seven or eight hundred native houses in Manila hardly means the same thing as similar news of an American city would. The month has dragged slowly along with little action on the part of General Otis. He has had occasional brushes with the insurgents, but on the whole has waited the arrival of reinforcements which are just reaching him. At this writing a general advance of the American attacking column, formed after the arrival of reinforcements, is being made.

Too much cannot be said in praise of our military and navy in the East. There has been perfect discipline and the Americans have proven themselves the best of soldiers. The arrangements for supplies, etc., have been almost perfect, and there has been nothing to criticize or start scandals as proved to be the case in the Santiago campaign. General Otis like Admiral Dewey, is doing his work quietly and with thoroughness and so far has met with no defeats. It is pleasing to know that Congress restored to the navy the rank of Admiral, which has not been in existence since Porter's death, and that the President immediately placed Dewey's name in nomination, and he is now full Admiral, which places him in the highest naval rank in any nation. Incidentally it may be remarked that many enthusiasts have suggested his name for the Presidency, but the Admiral has written a letter in which he absolutely declines to have his name used in such connection. Several of the islands have voluntarily placed themselves under American colors and with the forming in of reinforcements with General Otis and Admiral Dewey we may look for early news of importance.

The affairs in Cuba and Porto Rico seemingly remain about the same. General Gomez acting for our President, has accepted the mission of paying the Cuban army with \$3,000,000 left from



MR. CONGER, U. S. MINISTER TO CHINA.

our war fund. Investigation shows a sudden change in the Cuban army since there is prospect of pay, and instead of the usual military proportion of officers and privates we are gravely informed that there are more than half officers on the pay rolls. What these rapacious "patriots" called the Assembly, which has repudiated Gomez and the Cuban junta in the United States, will want next no man can foresee. They have developed nothing but a spirit of beggary and dishonesty and it is more than probable that when our country refuses to support them in idleness, we shall be under the painful necessity of administering them chas-

tisement. There is little of the poetical or sentimental about the average Cuban. Meantime American capital is restoring work and industry in all parts of the island and as a whole the people are quiet. The lower and dangerous classes, however, profess suspicion of American intentions and probably at a later date will again become brigands. When the time shall arrive, like the Filipinos, they will find Americans differ from the Spanish.

The conditions in Spain have grown continually worse, and although there has been no actual revolution there have been many overt



MR. CECIL RHODES.

acts which, were the Government stronger, would call for immediate suppression. Rumors continue, thick and fast, to the effect that the Carlists are secretly arming all over the kingdom, and are only awaiting a proper time to make a strike for the throne. The Queen Regent's lot at this time is indeed an unhappy one. Ever since the return of the Peace Commissioners from Paris there has been constant turmoil and contention throughout the kingdom, and it is only because the country is in such a desperate condition that no one wishes to assume its reconstruction that there has not been insurrections in many of the provinces.

The return of the Peace Commissioners and also many of the leading officers in the late war has led to a number of arrests. General Toral, who surrendered the Spanish army at Santiago, is under arrest awaiting court martial; and under the strict Spanish custom, officers arrested for court martial are placed in prison for longer or shorter time awaiting the actual trial. Both Admiral Montojo and Admiral Cervera have been arrested, as well as a number of other leading officers. There seems to be a determined effort on the part of the stay-at-home Spaniards to punish some one for the many defeats suffered by the Spanish arms.

The Cortes, or Spanish Court which is relatively the same as our Congress, was called together for the purpose of considering and ratifying the treaty of peace which was executed by the Commission at Paris. From an Anglo-Saxon point of view, the deliberating bodies of the Latin nations are often fantastic in their excitability and enthusiasm, which seems to the cooler north men as exhibitions of volatility and instability. The meetings of the Cortes were full of acrimonious discussion and unreasonable tirades and criticisms, which even went so far as to call in question the acts of the Queen Regent. Accustomed as Americans are to public criticism this does not seem much; but in monarchies, criticism of royalty always carries with it the liability to suffer under lese majeste, which is the law established under the legal maxim that the king can do no wrong, and criticism of his acts become the same as sedition. There were numerous charges and recriminations by leading members of the Cortes, and finally the Premier Sagasta in disgust resigned his portfolio, which action was followed by the entire ministry. The Queen Regent desired him to reform the cabinet, but he declined; she then named Senor Rios who was at the head of the Peace Commission at Paris, but realizing his unpopularity with the Spanish masses on account of his treaty, which is considered by the Spaniards as having yielded everything to the Americans, he refused to undertake to do so, and accordingly Senor Don Francisco Silvela was entrusted with the task of constructing a government to succeed the Liberal ministry. Silvela has been, since the death

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of Castillo, the leading Conservative in Spain. In last January he announced complete agreement between himself and General Polavieja, who represents the army spirit of Spain. He has continually censured Sagasta and his policies; but from the platform which he has set forth relative to taxation and many Spanish local issues, it seems that he has not studied in vain and that some of the reforms which he proposes would be for the enlightenment and advancement of his country. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs twenty years ago, and afterwards represented his country in France. He has had the usual ups and downs of Spanish statesmanship during his political career. Lieutenant-General Camillo Polavieja, under this ministry, has been offered the portfolio of War. He is one of the most brilliant of Spanish soldiers; he served in the ten years' war in Cuba, and afterwards was made Captain-General of Andalusia. He has been Governor-General in Porto Rico and Cuba, and in 1896 was sent to the Philippine Islands. In common with Weyler, for his extreme cruelty, has been called "The Butcher" which name, by the way, is the Spanish nickname for him and not the American.

It hardly seems possible that a single year could have so entirely changed the policy and conditions of a great nation, and yet by the success of the Spanish War America has been forced to forsake the position of isolation which has been maintained for over a century, and take an active hand in the affairs and conditions of the world.

Under the Monroe Doctrine, we neither allowed interference with American territory, nor did we seek expansion or aggrandizement in foreign lands; but the unexpected fruits of victory have left us with responsibilities from which there can be no evasion. The moral and secret help which England gave us throughout the war, and which prevented overwhelming naval demonstration from the combined European nations which were intended against us, leaves us not only with a debt of gratitude toward the mother country, but a feeling that hereafter our relations are most closely linked. Believing as we do that the Anglo-Saxon idea of personal liberty and freedom is the highest kind of civilization, and that this personal liberty and freedom supported by courts of justice means the betterment of the whole world's people, we stand ready to go forward hand in hand in all proper policies with Great Britain. Such a combination cannot but be for the world's good.

But this new position of the United States as one of the leading powers of the world, brings with it many responsibilities and new questions which did not trouble us in the days of our isolation. In the past year the most desperate attempts have been made to parcel out Chinese territory among the great European powers. By more or less show of force, one power after another has acquired or leased points for naval stations on the Chinese coast. This sort of partition of territory commenced immediately after the Japanese war, by cession of ports to Russia, England and Japan. Since then there has been a plenty of nations reaching out for further concessions of territory. The Russian and Latin nations are in favor of what are called "Spheres of Influence," that is, they

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18).

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

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Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

#### CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Mrs. Mona Perkins,	\$3.00
Amelia Metcalf Harsh,	2.50
Arthur M. Murphy,	2.00
Mrs. C. F. Miller,	1.50
Ashby Watkins,	1.00

#### DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Once more we have come to the "uncertain glory of an April day"; how fast the time flies! How little while ago it seems when we were entering upon the grim uncertainties of the war with Spain; and yet one whole year has passed over us since then, and many things have happened in the mean time. The world is not the same as it was one year ago when the smiles and tears of April, 1898, were showered upon us. Is it better? Let us hope so; let us believe so; and let us each do our best to make it so in our "one little place." Certain it is that the dwellers in the lands which the United States has released from the thralldom of Spain during the year that has just passed have great cause to remember and bless it.

And so the years go on. Spring deepens into summer, summer burns itself out into the glorious reds and yellows of autumn, and these in turn give place to the snows of winter. We cannot stay them, and we would not if we could. We can only make the best use possible of the seasons as they fly. So let us glide along into summer with our first letter, and view a bit of the world's beauty and grandeur in this "Big Hill" in western Kansas.

"In a western county of Kansas is a range of hills somewhat like a range of small mountains. The valleys between are termed canons and are covered in season by a wiry grass called 'gumbo grass'. The soil is gumbo, and during the wet weather the roads across the hills are almost impassable.

"There is one hill called by the inhabitants, from its majestic size as compared with the rest, the 'Big Hill'. And it is a very big hill indeed, towering above the rest and making them seem insignificant. The Big Hill can be seen at a distance of fifteen miles, and looks not unlike a mountain rearing its head in the blue haze—I say blue haze because it is near the Smoky Hill River, and one familiar with that stream knows of the peculiar smoky appearance of the atmosphere at a distance. "The Big Hill was three miles distant from our farm and yet it seemed to be no more than a half mile. But in accomplishing the three miles between one must travel for two or three hours over small hills, deep cuts and narrow ravines that seem interminable. A tour of the Big Hill is something interesting, and to climb it and eat one's dinner on its summit on a pleasant day is something to be remembered.

"On the eastern side it descends in a precipice of at least half a hundred feet, then down, down, in seams, crevasses and ravines to the valley below. The Hill itself looks like it might have been the work of a volcano, as gigantic rocks are strewn here and there, and of very peculiar appearance. On one huge rock imbedded in the hill are carved the names of the people who have visited it. The Hill has three different tops or peaks, the highest one smooth and rounding, the others more or less rugged.

"The rocks from their peculiar appearance have led many people to believe that the hill is rich in minerals, but if so, no one has ever proven it. At least the Big Hill must be classed with all that is picturesque, and well worth the time it takes to visit it."

MRS. MONA PERKINS, Barrard, Kansas.

I regret that I cannot award a prize to the letter from which the following extracts are given. It is well written and interesting, but unfortunately does not comply with the rules governing prize winners; that is to say, most of the letter is drawn from the writer's knowledge of mythology, while I can only give prizes for letters which deal with original subjects.

"DEAR AUNT MINERVA:—Your pictured face is surrounded by imaginary owls. I hail from the sunny South where the living owls haunt the woods surrounding my home. The near approach of an owl, and their weird 'to-whit, to-whoo,' heard in the silence of night, is considered by the superstitious to be an omen of ill tidings. I never hear one near the house without taking a lighted lamp to the window or piazza, and with my shoe upon which I have made the sign of the cross, in my hand, repeat aloud these words:

"See the sign of the cross on my shoe,  
It is made to prevent the harm you may do;  
Go away, and your comrades tell  
The power of the cross over evil spell."  
"The owl, of course, immediately vanishes, and I see him no more.

"The ancients considered the owl to be an emblem of prudence and wisdom, and it was, therefore, consecrated to Minerva. Its presence was only considered a fatal omen when it sung or hooted. Its silence was of good import.

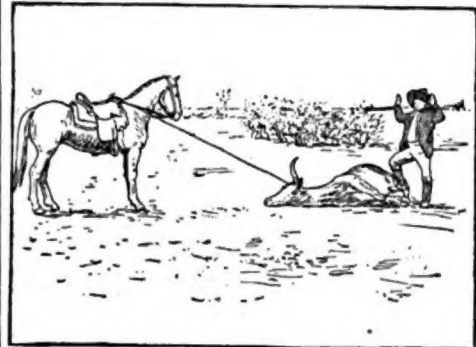
"The story of Minerva's creation is as follows: Jupiter, the God of Heaven, had a violent pain in his head, for which he consulted Vulcan. Vulcan, to relieve him, struck his skull with an axe, whereupon sprang Minerva, full-grown, in complete armor. She was the Goddess of Wisdom, of Science, of War and of Arts. Among the Greeks she went by the name of Pallas Athena, and the city of Athens was named for her. The old story goes that when Cecrops, who founded the city, wished a name for it, there was a great difference of opinion in regard to it, and twelve Gods were chosen as arbiters to decide the matter. They decided that the divinity who could furnish the most useful article for the use of the city should have the honor of naming it. Neptune, with a blow of his trident, caused a beautiful horse to spring from the earth, while Minerva or Athena, with a blow of her lance, produced the olive tree, an emblem of peace. The Gods decided in favor of the olive tree, and so the city was named Athens in honor of the donor of this precious gift."

M. B. INGRAHAM, Augusta, Ga.

The following description of a cattle roping contest in Texas may be objectionable to some of my readers, as savoring somewhat of cruelty to animals; but in forming our judgment of the amusement we must remember that the great business of this part of the country is cattle raising, and that proficiency in cattle roping is, like skill in any business, not only a thing to be proud of, but a very necessary part of a cowboy's education; and certainly the exhibition of this skill is a sight worth going far to see.

"I have been reading, with pleasure, the letters of your nieces and nephews, and hope to be able to join your circle.

"To many of your readers, living in other sections of the country, it may be interesting to read a description of a cattle roping contest. The contest took place at the fair grounds, and several thousands of people had assembled to witness it. In front of the grand stand was a pen, in which were confined twenty-eight of the wildest steers that could be found. Outside of the pen were the same number of cowboys, mounted on stout ponies. A steer was let out, and, angry at having been in such close quarters, made a wild dash for his wont-



SUCCESSFULLY ROPED.

ed liberty. When he had been allowed what the children call a "hand-start," at the word "go," a cowboy started in pursuit.

"Then followed an exciting chase, both steer and pony running at full speed. Round and round over his head the cowboy's lariat circled, then the long open noose sped from the practiced hand toward the fleeing steer. Cries of "He's got him," were often followed by "Oh, the rope broke!" Sometimes the noose, falling over only one horn, slipped off; sometimes the throw missed entirely. If both horns had been secured and the rope stood the strain the steer, still running, could be jerked down. Then a trained cow-pony knows he must stand perfectly still to keep the rope taut. Quicker than it takes to tell the man dismounts, runs the length of the rope, and ties the animal's four feet together so he will be unable to get up. This being done the vaquero throws up both hands.

"I enclose a photo of one of our best cowboys who has just secured his steer. Sometimes the pony falls when the rope tightens. Not infrequently the cowboy suffers from the fall, but not often seriously. Some steers manage to regain their feet before the cowboy reaches them and then he must remount and make another throw. There is just enough of chance and danger connected with cattle roping, to make it an intensely interesting spectacle. The roping of a steer from the word "go" till the cowboy throws up his hands, has been accomplished in the remarkably short time of thirty-two seconds. These contests are quite popular amusements in this part of the country, where stock-raising is the chief industry. There is always a good purse for the winner and a consolation prize for the slowest inside of a limited time. Long life to *COMFORT*!"

AMELIA METCALFE HARSH, San Angelo, Tex.

I have been much interested in reading the following letter on the Navy yard in Portsmouth, Virginia. To visit such a place is an object lesson in itself on the improvements which a hundred years, or even thirty years have developed in methods of warfare, to say nothing of the contrasts to be observed between our warships and those of our late opponent, Spain. Our cousin says:

"I have much enjoyed the letters written by cousins on different topics, and thought perhaps some readers would be interested in a glimpse of the relics found in the Navy yard at Portsmouth, Virginia.

"On entering the yard the first point of interest is a beautiful park, in the center of which is a tall flagstaff. On either side of a walk running directly through the park and in close proximity to each other are arranged cannon of nearly every description and size; in one place may be seen the short and unwieldy cannon used by our forefathers in their struggle for independence; in another we see the cannonades captured from the Mexicans; guns which doubtless were drawn side by side with Santa Anna in his march to meet our troops. Mounted on a stone pedestal at the terminus of a walk is a stone labeled: "Turkish stone shot from Constantinople." Its gigantic size and weight preclude the possibility of its ever having been fired from a gun, though it has been said such were used on the Bosphorus in ancient warfare. In this modern age of science and improved weapons of warfare it presents a novel but formidable appearance.

"Interspersed with the guns are pieces of wreckage from famous ships; three pieces of armor is all that is left of the once dreaded Merrimac which enjoys the distinction of being the first iron-clad constructed in America. Pieces from the wrecks of her victims, the Cumberland and Congress, lie close beside the Merrimac's armor, the sight of which carries our minds back to ante-bellum days when the old wooden ships were considered able to cope with all comers.

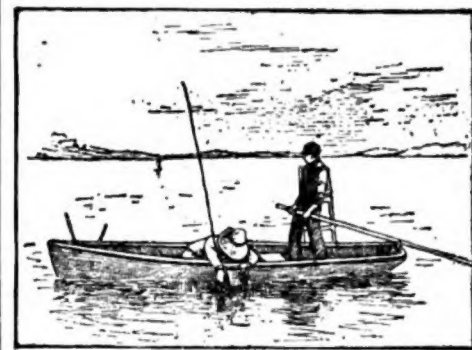
"In another part of the park is a gun taken from the British frigate Java, captured by the Constitution in 1812; there are also guns captured from the British on Lake Erie in the same year. Three guns taken from the Maria Teresa before she started on her disastrous voyage add new interest and attraction to the park. These guns are of five and one-half inch caliber. They are inclosed in shields which bear numerous indentations, probably caused by our rapid-fire guns; they are widely different from our guns, and do not compare favorably with them. Other attractions to the visitors and relic hunters are Hobson's raft, a bronze coat of arms taken from the Colon, and numbers of smaller articles, the mention of which would occupy more space than I can be allowed."

ASHBY WATKINS, Portsmouth, Va.

Now we have a wide-awake, interesting letter on sponge fishing.

"All the sponge used in the United States is caught on the west coast of Florida, and shipped

from but two points, Key West and Tarpon Springs. Of these two places Key West is the most important, being the birthplace of the industry, and still



FISHING FOR SPONGES.

containing all the largest packing houses. Of the fleet of about one hundred and fifty vessels engaged in the sponge fishing all but some twenty are owned in Key West, but as fully two-thirds of the crop is caught between Andote Key and Rock Island and cleaned in the kraals near Tarpon Springs that town is really the center of the business.

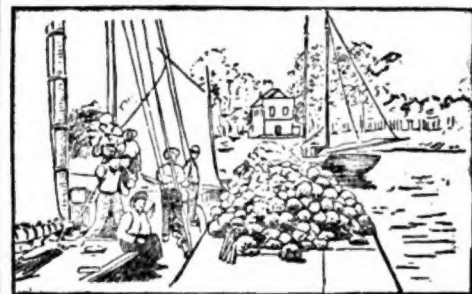
"The vessels are generally owned by large mercantile houses which make their principal profit from outfitting the boats and provisioning the crews; though there are a few of the captains who own their vessels and depend on the fishing alone for a livelihood. The 'trips' usually last from six to eight weeks, the crews being shipped and the boats provisioned for that length of time. The vessels are small, carrying not more than seventeen men each, and the greater part of the fleet is made up of sloops carrying from three to five men apiece.

"On arriving at the sponging ground the crew are told off into the dingies, two to each boat, one for hooker while the other sculls. The hooker is ordinarily the oldest and most experienced, so the captain is always a hooker. Each morning when the boats leave the vessels, the sculler takes his place in the stern and sculls slowly along while the hooker, throwing himself down in the bow, watches for the sponge through his water glass, which is a bucket with a glass plate in the bottom. This, being forced a foot or more under the surface of the water, enables him to see the bottom without being disturbed by the motion of the waves. When he discovers a sponge he lowers his hook, which is three-pronged and fastened to a pole some forty feet in length, and catching it under the sponge he drags it up. When the boat is filled it returns to the vessel, where the catch is laid out on the deck to dry.

"At the end of each week the vessels return to the kraals, which are enclosures of stakes set in shallow water, into which the sponge is thrown to soak, while the catch of the previous week is taken out and beaten with short clubs to free it of the black matter contained in them. When perfectly clean the sponges are strung on short strings and tied in bunches. At the end of the trip the catch is taken to some central place to be sold. The buyers examine the piles, weighing them by hand, and then each one writes his bid on a slip of paper and hands it to some person appointed to receive them. He opens the bids and reads them aloud to the captain, the highest bidder getting the cargo.

"The profits of the trip are divided into shares. First the expenses of the trip are paid; then the owner of the vessel gets his share; and lastly the crew, the captain getting a slightly larger share than the men.

"The ordinary value of the sponge caught by the fleet during each trip is between \$60,000 and \$90,000,



PREPARING THE SPONGES.

varying with climatic conditions, as during part of the year the water is so dark that it is difficult for the hooker to see the sponge or even the bottom."

ARTHUR M. MURPHY, Andote, Florida.

Our next letter is part of a description sent me of the city of Dayton, Ohio.

"The County seat of Montgomery County is one of the most beautiful inland cities of Ohio, and is well worthy of name 'The Gem City.'

"It is situated at the junction of the Mad and Miami Rivers. Most of the streets are broad and well paved. The principal residence streets are lined with elegant and comfortable houses, generally surrounded with well trimmed lawns and shade trees, making a very pretty appearance. The business portion has fine public and large office and business buildings of commanding appearance, with all the up-to-date improvements in construction.

"The city is supplied with an abundance of pure water and has an excellent system of electric lighting for the streets. The population is about ninety thousand (90,000). If all the streets were joined they would be one hundred and fifty-eight miles in length, thirty miles of which are paved. Companies 'I' and 'G' of the 3rd Regiment, Ohio National Guards are stationed here. No other city can boast a more thoroughly organized and efficient police force. The fire department is also one of the best in the country.

"There are six electric car lines in the city, also a Traction line to Cincinnati and one to Eaton, Ohio, soon to be built through to Richmond, Ind. "The 'National Home' for disabled volunteer soldiers is also located here, three miles west of the city. The grounds embrace about six hundred acres of land. It has a library, hotel, theater, two churches, hospital, large cemetery and monu-



OLD SETTLER'S LOG CABIN.

ment, deer parks, lakes, etc. This beautiful spot is reached by four different car lines and annually attracts over three hundred thousand people from all parts of the country.

"Old Settlers Log Cabin was the first house in Dayton, built April 1st, 1796. A sketch of this accompanies this letter."

SAMUEL R. KRENNER, Dayton, Ohio.

Have any of you ever been in a watchmaking es-

tablishment, or even in a watchmaking town? If you have not you will enjoy this description of the immense watchmaking business carried on in Elgin, Illinois.

"Elgin, Illinois, is a beautiful little town of about twenty thousand inhabitants, situated on the banks of the Fox river, forty miles from Chicago. The Elgin National Watch Company carry on the chief industry of the place, the factory being a three story building, covering nearly two acres of ground. In it there are fifteen different rooms devoted to as many departments of the work; the plate, punch, dial, spring, machine, gilding, motion, balance, train, escape, finishing, timing, transfer dial, jewel, and stem wind. Besides these rooms there are the various offices, a pretty and convenient reception room, and a store room.

"At seven in the morning the employees, numbering about three thousand, of which more than half are women, enter at three large doors; after five minutes past seven none are allowed to enter until half-past nine. At seven the power starts and goes on with a tremendous noise until six in the evening with the exception of the dinner hour at noon.

"Most of the employees sit while at work, and to each one is furnished a chair, a stool, and an electric light. To each one is assigned some particular part of the work, and this they do week after week, month after month, until they become very expert in that one thing. They are paid, usually, by the piece, and some handle twelve and fifteen thousand pieces per day, while others, whose work is more difficult, perhaps turn off only two or three hundred per day. After each operation is completed the pieces are taken by errand boys and girls to another employe for the next process. Before the pieces are allowed to leave a room they pass through the office connected with that room, where they are inspected and counted.

"When complete the watches, or movements, more properly speaking, are put into large boxes, into which they are fitted so that they cannot jostle, and are then conveyed to the freight trains which run through the grounds, and which take them to the main office in Chicago. From there they are finally sold and shipped to their destinations."

MRS. C. F. MILLER, Dundee, Illinois.

And now, since my space is filled I must bid you a reluctant good-by for another month.

AUNT MINERVA.

#### BOYS WANTED.

We pay boys and girls to collect all kinds of used postage stamps for us. For further particulars send two unused 2-cent stamps to Eastern Philatelic Co., Dept. 1, Concord, N. H.

#### Mexican Fiber Brush for Your Room.

Every room should have a whisk broom, to dust hats, clothes, etc. Straw brooms cost and wear out quickly. We have a practically indestructible whisk broom made of Mexican fiber. The best thing ever made, into brushes. Each brush is fitted in a neat, durable case worth fully a quarter. Agents selling these wonderful brushes make as high as \$15.00 a day clear profits. We will send one sample brush as a free premium to any one who will send us ten cents to pay mailing expenses and for a special three months' trial subscription to *GOLDEN MOMENTS*. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. *GOLDEN MOMENTS*, Augusta, Me.

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"Write to the Sawyer Crystal Blue Co., 27 Broad Street, Boston, Mass., and learn how you can get a watch free."

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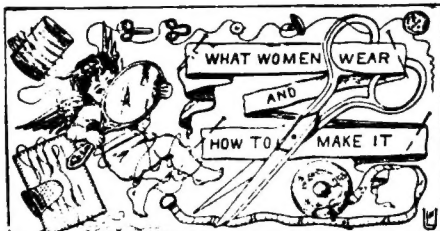
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Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Genuine, Horseshoe, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickel-plated, Ebony-handled Razor Stop, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Toilet, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand \$5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency use. Every man should know that either his Father, his Brother, his Son, his Brother-in-law or his Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

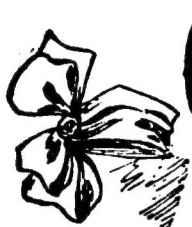
Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address

**THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta, Maine.**





WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



knees; but from there an outward slope is taken, which results in folds that again in some sort cling about the feet.

Though here comes a disputed point, some averring that an interlining of any sort is unnecessary, whereas others maintain that the base needs, if anything, more steadying than ever. And only an interlining is capable of contriving this. It must be unstiffened lining, such as Irish linen or undressed muslin. The general effect, with certain necessary variations, tending to slowness from waist to hem. There are, as usual, many ways of arriving at the same result, but I have selected the one which lends itself to the greatest simplicity and fewest seams. It is composed of two pieces. Whether the lining be used separately or in one, it would be cut and made up on precisely the same lines, a detail that reminds us that a foot flounce of the lining would serve to set out the edge of the outer skirt in place of interlining. Stiffening is really a matter of discretion and circumstance; some materials demand a support, while others hang with perfect symmetry without. A placket-hole occurs down the center-back seam, and is faced back a good inch and a half on the right side, and a fold of equal width set on to the edge of the other. Over this entrance the pleats are laid, and either genuinely or ostensibly secured by buttons and cord loops.

Dresses are now so marked for each particular section of the day that a smart home toilette is as necessary to all as the walking dress, for the reason also that only in the street is the smart woman permitted to garb herself with a certain amount of simplicity. For the rest she must be frilled and furbelowed and aggressively feminine. This change is not one altogether good for most of us, and it is, indeed, difficult to keep pace with the times. Cashmere is a good standby for pretty, trailing home gowns. And a good idea for the making has somewhat of a princess effect by reason of the scalloped edge of the upper skirt being continued up the bodice. This upper skirt is cut in one piece by opening the material to its fullest width and placing the selvedge to the waist. The lower or front skirt follows the same principle, but naturally is not brought round so far. Black mousseline appliqued with ecru is laid on as three insertion bands, the same on the bodice, where also a deep frill of the same falls bertha-like over the shoulders and continues round the back. The sleeves are very tight-fitting, and like the edge of the overskirt are bound with satin ribbon. A soft green would combine well with the black mousseline lace, and a heliotrope shade would do well for an older woman.

The lightest colors have been worn abroad all the winter. The palest greys and fawns seem essentially suitable for early spring and in wearing them we may feel assured we will be quite in the fashion. A pretty model for a walking-dress is quite simple and of smoke



TAFFETA SILK WAIST.

grey. The skirt is perfectly close fitting, severely plain round the hips, and laced up the back with a double row of buttons and cords. The bodice is made with loose fronts and wide revers of white cloth. These form a rounded collar at the back and cross in the front, being fastened with a large, round cut-steel buckle. The vest is of fine mousseline de sole inserted with Valenciennes lace with a soft frill of lace on either side of the front.

A very fetching gown of thin wool, in a deli-

cate shade of biscuit color, sets forth the new tunic effect, which has been so much talked of in Paris during the past winter. The skirt proper is fitted very closely though with considerable swirl at the foot; it is trimmed in bayadere effect with bands of golden-brown velvet ribbon—disappearing under the edges of the pointed tunic, which latter has for its only ornamentation a row of stitching at the head of the hem—the soft bodice opens at the front from the shoulder within a few inches of the waist line, where stitched and caught together with stiff little bows of brown velvet; similar bows ornament each side of stock which with vest are composed of creamy toned liberty silk laid in soft tucks. The close sleeves are finished at the wrist with a row of stitching around the point which falls deep over the hand. With it is worn a jaunty hat of yellow Tuscan straw the rolling front faced with golden-brown velvet, its only other decoration being a cleverly arranged scarf of creamy lace. A good model for a gown of liberty taffeta in a soft purplish blue has the skirt modishly decorated with flounces arranged so as to represent a tunic. The bodice has a ruffle of the silk set over the shoulders bertha fashion, the heading hidden under bands of purple velvet, deeper toned than the silk, between these bands and



IN TUNIC EFFECT.

in the vest space, is set white muslin daintily laid in small, French tucks. The stock of white, has stiff little bows of purple velvet under each ear—completing the gown.

Herewith is given, an up-to-date shirtwaist in taffeta which may readily be copied in any of the pretty plain colored organdies or dimities if made over lining of silk or nearsilk, matching it perfectly in color. The back has a small pointed yoke set in tiny pleats while the front is provided with three double-boxpleats, reaching from shoulder to belt. The front pleat showing a smart fastening of fancy buttons, made of purple enamel in the shape of violets, each having a tiny rhinestone in the center in lieu of a dewdrop. Speaking of fancy buttons, the most extravagant sorts imitating jewels in the most clever way, and coming in all colors of the rainbow are considered quite "au fait"—on all the more elaborate shirtwaists. It is a pretty fad and as long as there is some actual use to recommend it, it is not unlikely to become very popular during the summer.

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Good dressers in city and country wear the American Woolen Mills Co.'s made to measure suits at \$6.00 to \$10.00; pants \$1.75 to \$5.00, made and sent anywhere in the U. S. to be paid for after examination. For large cloth samples of entire line and full information about ordering, cut this notice out and mail to us. Agents wanted in every unoccupied county in the U. S. Address American Woolen Mills Co., Chicago.

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#### UNFIT TO LIVE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



creature, in crawling about, is sure to come upon a spot where it completes the circuit and accomplishes its own electrocution.

If it happens to be an unusually lucky insect, it is merely "startled", and has a chance to skip, giving thanks to the Providence which shapes things appropriately for bedbugs. Philosophers have long deemed it a mistake to suppose that Providence extends its interest and interference exclusively to human affairs.

The contrivance referred to, as described in the patent, "consists of a battery, induction-coil, a switch, and a number of circuits leading to various locations on the bedstead, where are placed suitable circuit-terminals." As the inventor further states, "At proper locations on the bedstead, preferably such as are inhabited to the greatest extent by bedbugs, as at the joint and angles, I place pairs of metallic contacts, insulated from each other, but so close together that an insect in passing from one to the other must necessarily close the circuit between the contacts. If these are placed on a leg of the bedstead, an insect in climbing up will, when it receives the shock, more than likely change its mind and return in the direction whence it came. In like manner contact-strips in pairs, constituting the terminals of the circuit, may be located at various places on the bedstead or on the bed-springs, which will so harass the bugs as to cause them to shun the bed entirely. Obviously the apparatus need not be in operation all the time. It may be in operation during the day and shut off at night by opening the switch, and after the insects have been exterminated from the bed it need be used only at long intervals.

In other words, when a gentleman becomes conscious of a bite, he need only press a button, and the instrument will do the rest.

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Standard makes. Everyone a bargain. Various styles. Highest grade high arm machines. We are closing out the stock of a well known make at less than factory cost. We are under contract not to advertise the name for at our prices it would ruin their agents. Don't miss this opportunity. WE GUARANTEE the machine for years—most for your money—satisfaction in every purchase. Shipped on approval. If not right don't keep it. A few good AGENTS WANTED.  
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#### CUT GLASS, SILVER TOP CREAM PITCHER FREE.

This refined Cut Glass Finish Cream Pitcher is like crystal diamonds in its sparkling beauty; and is just a neat handy size for table creamer. Its pattern is the latest thing in style, and having a Quadruple Silver Plated Rim to top it out makes it as dainty as it is chaste and beautiful. Heretofore anything in cut glass has been so very expensive that the price has prevented its general use. By the invention of special new machinery the high cost has been largely overcome and we can now present a premium of genuine worth to be given free for a few minutes work. This cream pitcher with its dainty silver topped rim is pretty enough to grace any table and it will give a fine effect and make a good setting to the rest of one's table fittings. It should sell for 67c, but we will send one free, all charges paid, for a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c each or send 35c for a year's subscription and we will send the creamer to you free. Address  
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There have been many so called easy methods and charts devised, but this is the latest and best. It is intended for those who have not the time to take lessons. A complete self-instructor, enabling anyone to play the piano or organ at sight. This chart is the practical result of years of study by a noted American composer and musician. With this chart anyone can become an expert pianist, playing accompaniments to the most difficult songs at sight, as well as dance music, marches, etc. These charts are valuable to the advanced musician as well as to the beginner, embracing nearly every major and minor chord used in music. It is the most comprehensive yet simplest chart ever published, and is endorsed by teachers and musicians everywhere.  
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**SILK LINED JACKET**  
**ALL WOOL MATERIAL**  
Jacket elegantly silk lined, skirt superbly finished, made from Lamb's Celebrated Fast Color All-wool Suits. Twilled Serge, equal every way to others' \$10 suits. Choice of electric blue, navy blue or black color. **SEND NO MONEY** but send this with color desired; give bust and waist measure, length of skirt (down front) from armpit to bottom and we'll send the suit by express C. O. D. and allow you to try it on before you pay a cent. If found just as represented, a perfect fit and worth every penny of \$4.98 then pay the express agent \$4.98 and expressage. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory. **THE SUIT** made by expert men tailors over designs drawn by that king of ladies' fashions, M. LaChapelle, from Lamb's Best All Wool Fast Color Serge, famous everywhere for its rich, soft bloom and beautiful appearance. The Jacket is made in latest single-breasted style, with tight-fitting back and new fashionable sleeves. It is superbly lined with silk, and has bands, artistically double silk-stitched and elaborately finished with real French silk of beautiful colorings and exquisite designs. The skirt is made in the latest style, has new fan back, nobly waisted seams, is four yards wide and hangs gracefully and stylishly; from start to finish it is a real tailor-made and worth fully \$10.00. If desired the suit can be worn without the jacket with a shirt waist. Write for Big Bargain Catalogue of other Suits, Skirts, Coats, Jackets, etc.  
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I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhoea, Ulceration, Displacement and all female troubles, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask. Mrs. SUMMERS, Box C, Notre Dame, Ind.

#### BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin that are just what ladies want for crazy patch work. We are fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special PANIC PACKAGES to any one sending 10c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, the First Story Magazine. Three lots, and an elegant piece of SILK PLUSH contain 35 square inches, together with five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; three 25c. lots for 65c., five for \$1.00.

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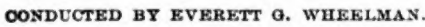
**BIG OFFER.** We will send a sample postpaid to anyone sending 13c. for a three months' subscription to this paper. Two Rests and this paper 6 months for 25c.; five for 50c.; one dozen, \$1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants 25c.; one Rest and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c.  
Address COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 133, Augusta, Maine.

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However, don't be in a hurry to give up your bicycle, for I believe that is a thing that has come to stay, and that with the constant improvements that are being made in it, we shall be riding wheels five years from now that will



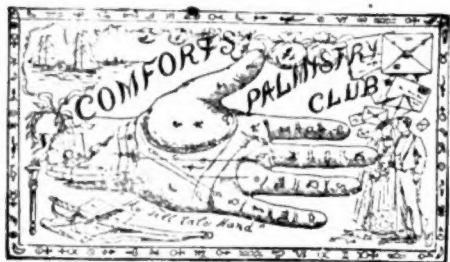
**Our No. 200 Steam Cereal Cooker and Eggs Poacher** consists of a large bottom pan 10 1/2 in. wide with an inside rack and cereal pan which holds five pints for cooking cereals, etc. It allows the steam to circulate over and into them making the cereals tender, delicious and readily digestible. It also has a tray with five deep cups for puddings, custards, etc., and for poaching eggs, steaming oysters, etc. **Eggs are poached by steam in 2 minutes, not broken and water soaked.** A cup for each egg, cooked FREE. **FREE** with each cooker. Sent post on request. Retail price, \$12.00. **FREE** to our agents. We are the largest manufacturers of **Pure Aluminum, Scotch Granite and TinWare** in the world. **AGENTS**, write how to get this and four of our other best selling household novelties—**Outfit worth \$2.00—FREE.** All goods guaranteed to give satisfaction. **HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.** This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Editor.

periments with this wood it is now by a **lately invented new process prepared** and turned into forms which are in every way far superior to anything ever produced in the line of **Quassia Cups**. Gallons of **medicine** can be gotten from one of these **Tonic Cups** by simply pouring water into it and letting it stand a short time, when it will be found to be changed into the best tonic medicine ever made and can be drunk direct from the cup itself or poured into any tumbler or bottle. These cups are **Veritable Fountains of Health** and **perform the same service** for the family as the **Golden Rule** of prosperity and long life. Every member of every family in the land should use one, and one cup in each family will furnish **medicine for the whole family to drink**. The problem of economy in doctor's bills has been solved, and sickness can now be banished without employing the expensive methods of former times.

**ONE CUP SENT FREE** To help all the people possible I will send one cup free to any one who will send me \$5.00 for a year's subscription to the Literary Companion. This paper is itself worth \$5.00 a year. We want new subscribers to our most valuable and most wonderful Tonic Cup, and thus adopt this means of advertising them, for where one goes to jog the jaded appetite hundreds can be sold as nearly every family will take one and agents can make money selling them and taking subscriptions for the paper. Send 25c. to-day and get agents' terms on dozen and hundred lots.

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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

**A** MEMBER of our Palmistry Club wants to know if we should take into account anything besides the lines in reading a hand. Bless me! Haven't I said enough on that point? I am sure I have repeated over and over again, the statement that everything about the hand must be taken into account; the texture, the shape, the size, the quality, the hardness or softness, in fact, all the conditions, considering the lines the last thing. Consequently as I have often said in this department, if my readings are ever at fault, it is because in a photograph, smoked paper impression or casts it is impossible to give anything of an idea of the quality of a hand or anything besides the size and shape.

Cheiro, the greatest of living palmists, gives the following directions to his student: "Examine every portion of the hand—back, front, nails, skin, color—before speaking. See whether the thumb is long or short or poorly developed; whether the will phalanx is firm or supple, strong or weak. Then turn your attention to the palm; see whether it is hard, soft or flabby. Always look at the left hand before you say what you read from the right, as it is impossible to read either correctly without studying both. Next remark the proportion of the fingers to the palm, whether they are long, short, thin or thick; class them as a whole if they belong to a particular type, or if mixed, class each finger separately. Notice the nails carefully; their bearing on health, temper and disposition. Classify the entire hand and then look at the mounts; see which have the greatest prominence and which are lacking.

"Now proceed to the lines. It is best to start with the lines of life and health, reading them together; then take the line of head, the fate-line, the heart-line and then the minor or chance lines. Speak honestly of what you see, and if you see a line of which you do not know the meaning ask leave to wait before passing judgment on it until you have consulted good authority. Never hazard a guess at the meaning of a line until you are so proficient in the science of palmistry that you will be able to judge from contingent lines what the meaning of the unfamiliar ones may be. Be sympathetic; enter into the lives and feelings of the person before you and let your entire ambition be to do them good. Think of your work first, yourself last."

It may be said right here that this is one secret of Cheiro's great success; he does enter into the lives and minds of his consultors to such an extent that his power of reading the hand amounts almost to divination. Some of the best readers that I know have developed this power, also, and it is a wonderful thing and great aid to the palmist. First of all, however, the palmist-reader should consider his work with the greatest respect; if you do not respect it, no one else will.

So many have been asking for the above information, that I have given it at the expense of reading more than two hands this month. But I am sure all are willing to wait patiently for their turn, knowing that it takes several months at best, and that in a club so large as ours, the greatest good of the greatest number must always be remembered first.

"Alex" has the hand of a very ambitious man; one that will succeed in everything he undertakes from sheer force of will and the perseverance that goes with it. I have no hesitation in saying that "Alex" has received many a hard blow in his fights with the world, that would have utterly discouraged a man of weaker fiber; but although he has been cast down after these varied discouragements, he has always risen again and given the world good battle and so has gained what he has striven for against heavy odds. For this quality he will always succeed, simply because he never admits that there is such a word as "failure". It would be a good thing if more of our young men had his grit. The men who succeed have to have this quality and those who are lacking in it would do well to set about cultivating it at once. This man is a statesman and orator; but he is the latter only when he is interested in the thing he is talking about. He cannot get up and talk on any subject that comes up, as the born orator can; but when he is absorbed in a subject he talks in a way that makes the whole world stop and listen. In many ways this man is remarkable. He will live to be about three-score years and ten and although the world in general admires his physical condition and thinks him the personification of good health, it is only because he governs himself by that iron determination of his and will not allow himself to get sick or weak; if he gave up to his inclinations he could easily become a half invalid. In matters of the heart, the same conditions exist. He has had one or two great disappointments, enough to make an ordinary man a woman-hater forever, and inflict upon the entire sex the contempt engendered by the exceptions he has been injured by; but he knows better than this, and by sheer determination he has recovered from the blows that would have swamped a weaker man. In many ways, a remarkable hand, showing a remarkable character.

"B. S. C." has a hand almost diametrically opposite, although this, too, shows great strength of character. This person is feminine to the last degree. She dislikes encountering the world and shrinks from anything like pub-

licity. When trouble comes on her she retires from the gaze of people, even those nearest and dearest to her, and bears her trouble as best she may; but she never forgets and never overcomes. She is very artistic, fond of music, poetry, pictures, nature and beautiful things; and she is indolent by inheritance and by inclination.

She would prefer remaining in the background of home even if it means dependence on relatives and friends. She is very refined in thought and in temperament. She too, is ambitious, but she would never be willing to undergo discouragement or hardship for the sake of gratifying ambitions. She is very warm-hearted, so much so that she is destined to great suffering all her life from her affections. An indifferent word, a careless look even, makes her miserable for days when coming from the one she loves above all others; about the opinions of others she cares too little. She is a born aristocrat and I hope has sufficient means to gratify her exclusive tastes; else she will be miserable. Two marriages are indicated which will be as happy as her temperament will allow.

Two or three more requests have come in for our rule for taking smoked paper impressions. Here it is:

Take a large sheet of white paper, legal cap or commercial note. Hold it carefully over an oil or spirit lamp, or, better yet, a tallow candle, lighted. Hold it near enough the flame so that the smoke will leave a fine black deposit, without burning the paper. A little practice will soon teach the right angle at which it should be held. When the paper is well smoked, lay it, smoked side up, on a flat table or board (without a cloth). Then place the right hand, palm downward, firmly on the paper, pressing hard without moving the hand a hair's breadth. Keep it so a minute, and take up the hand quickly without disturbing the impressions of the lines in the least. Have ready some artists' fixatif (procureable at any store where artists' materials are kept) in an atomizer. With the latter squeeze sufficient fixatif over the impression made on the paper to keep it from rubbing. This gives an indelible impression.

*Digitus*

**\$2.00 ASTROLOGICAL READING FREE.** I will send full life reading and answer all questions with picture of future affinity for 10 cts. (postage expenses). Give date of birth. It may mean wealth and happiness. Ad. Prof. A. Bolla, Philadelphia, Pa.

**EVERYBODY WEARS COLLAR BUTTONS.** Send us only 5c. and we send you Six Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. 5 cents for 6. Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The highest railroad in the world is the Colorado Midland at the Continental Divide, where it is nearly twelve thousand feet above sea level.

**'99 BICYCLES \$5 to \$35**

To introduce '99 models for spring we will this month name Astonishingly Low Prices on highest grade wheels. **ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED.** Our name stamps them the best. Wonderful opportunity. **BUY NOW** Extra special price made agents and make money. **OUR WHEELS SELL.** Shipped on approval. Liberal terms. Write now. Get catalogue and send for it. Large stock '99 wheels below cost. **LEARN HOW WE GIVE A WHEEL FREE.** Northern Cycle & Supply Co., A-80, 73 Wells St., Chicago.

**BABY CARRIAGES** Shipped C. O. D. Any where in America at Wholesale Prices. **NO MONEY IN ADVANCE.** Buy from factory, save dealers' profits. \$18 Carriages for \$9. | \$30 Carriages for \$25.50 | \$12 | \$6. | 60-CARTS for \$25.50 up. Send for free illustrated catalog and freight offer. **CASH BUYERS' UNION.** 164 West Van Buren Street, B-5 Chicago, Ill.

**CHILD LOST** For 18 years. Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C, 245, Saratoga, New York.

**SALARY \$900.00 A YEAR \$75 MONTHLY.** STRAIGHT OUT SALARY. **BONAFIDE SALARY.** NO MORE, NO LESS SALARY

Several trustworthy gentlemen or ladies wanted in each state to manage our business in their own and nearby counties. It is mainly office work conducted at home. Salary straight \$900 a year and expenses—definite, bonafide, no commission, easy to understand. Six years in business and we are compelled to **COMPETENT RELIABLE MANAGERS** to secure. Examine it at your express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent our special offer price, \$5.35, less the 50 cents, or \$4.85, and express charges. This is a regular \$8.00 Stradivarius Model Violin, richly colored, highly polished, powerful and sweet in tone, complete with fine maple bow, one extra set of strings, violin case, rosin and one of the best instruction books published. Write for free musical instrument and organ and piano catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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**50 CENTS.**



Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this Violin and Outfit by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent our special offer price, \$5.35, less the 50 cents, or \$4.85, and express charges. This is a regular \$8.00 Stradivarius Model Violin, richly colored, highly polished, powerful and sweet in tone, complete with fine maple bow, one extra set of strings, violin case, rosin and one of the best instruction books published. Write for free musical instrument and organ and piano catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

## PEPSIN-SALTED PEANUTS.

Dyspepsia, Insomnia and Other Ills Cured by the Common American Peanut.

**I**F the day ever dawns when science shall have robbed Nature of her last secret the world's people of that era will marvel at the host of simple things that Nature possessed for the welfare of mankind. Diligent investigation has lately discovered that the common American peanut contains qualities which when scientifically prepared and made operative with salt and pepsin in proper proportions acts with amazing promptitude on the gastric juices, relieving almost immediately dyspeptic disturbances, and, in time, curing dyspepsia in its worst forms.

To America is due the honor of having first produced the peanut (arachis hypogaea). Its true name is "goober," and Virginia is noted for exceptionally large crops of the nut. Since something of its real value has become known other warm countries succeeded in growing it. The plant is leguminous and of many branches, resembling somewhat the clover. It is planted and cared for much like peas or beans and is sometimes called earth or ground nut on account of its vines running along on the ground. Two years ago any one recommending peanuts for dyspepsia would have been jeered at, and rightly, too, for it is of more recent date that the medicinal qualities of the nut were discovered. Until this discovery these qualities were dominated by an oil in which the peanut is rich. This oil is non-drying and valuable as a lubricant. It is also used extensively as an adulterant for olive oil.

Frequent experiments discovered that the peanut was also rich in nutriment, and that this food when peptonized acted like magic in dispelling heartburn, curing insomnia, and putting the digestive apparatus in working order. All well-informed medical men know that science has succeeded in isolating so pure a pepsin that it will digest 25,000 times its own weight in albumen. Pepsin is one of the albuminoids or nitrogenous substances, and it has the power of converting proteins into peptones. When the process of digestion does not furnish sufficient pepsin to accomplish complete assimilation of the food dyspepsia begins to entrench itself in the system. Then have a care, for, if its inroads are not blocked and the disease routed, years of intense suffering are sure to follow.

Everybody likes peanuts. Ever since the first "Young America" laughed at the antics of the circus clown peanuts have been popular. Children love to eat them on the sly "when the teacher isn't looking," while older persons have been known to crack them quietly in their pockets and sneak the palatable kernels into their mouths at the theater. Even the confirmed dyspeptic loves them, but is afraid. Who, it may be asked, ever expected to hear of peanuts being used as a remedy for dyspepsia, for Bright's Disease, for Diabetes, for Insomnia and for corpulency?

Germany claims the credit of having discovered the possibilities of the peanut, and an eminent chemist in our employ has demonstrated that "pepsin-salted" peanuts lose none of the peanut flavor in the preparation. Our process of preparing them is such that the oil is neutralized while the flavor and the medicinal properties of the nut are retained. This makes a food-medicine that is certain to be the delight of everybody.

In connection with medicinal qualities of pepsin-salted peanuts it might be interesting as well as instructive to know that peanuts outrank, by a large percentage, such nutritive foods as cheese, peas, beef, rice, potatoes, milk, rye flour, and veal. Already the Germans are making flour and butter from the peanut, and the success of the venture has been such that peanut planters everywhere are preparing to double their usual crops.

We are the first in the United States to prepare pepsin-salted peanuts for the market, and we hope to merit success solely from the quality of the goods which we shall dispose of through our agents at 10c. per package.

Experiments have proved that our pepsin-salted peanuts will cure heartburn and relieve all the other pangs of chronic dyspepsia.

Sufferers from the effects of Bright's Disease and other kidney troubles have noted marked progress after treatment.

Corpulency disappears because the pepsin-salted peanuts digests and makes other food digest.

Half a handful eaten one hour before retiring will induce sleep and a continuation of pepsin-salted peanuts rightly will cure insomnia.

Notice COMFORT's special offer in advertisement on another page of "Two thousand packages shelled peanuts sent free," write at once for a sample package as per their offer.

## CHICKENS! IMPORTED and DOMESTIC

45 varieties. Best strains. Large 96 page illustrated catalogue of Chickens, Incubators and Brooders, and a 48 page Poultry book, both for only 10c. Address, C. C. SHOEMAKER, Box 506, FREEPORT, ILL.

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**FREE**

## \$2.50 TAN COVERT COAT

A STYLISH SPRING, SUMMER and FALL OVER-COAT AND A WATERPROOF RAINCOAT in one. SEND NO MONEY. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your height and weight, state number inches around body at Breast taken over coat, close up under arms and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D. subject to examination. Examine and try it on at your nearest express office, and if found exactly as represented, the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of, and equal to any coat you can buy for \$5.00 pay the express agent and express charges. Our Special Offer Price, **\$2.50** charges. **THIS HANDSOME COAT** is made from a genuine HAINSEL plain medium TAN COVERT ENGLISH WATERPROOF CLOTH, lined with a fancy plaid Hainzel waterproof lining, vulcanized by the celebrated Selkirk process, with the best English rubber compound to make it waterproof. IT IS A PERFECT, HANDSOME WATERPROOF RAINCOAT and cut short and made single breasted, fly front, makes a very stylish overcoat for Spring, Summer and Fall. While lined and vulcanized for a waterproof Mackintosh, worn as an overcoat, no one can tell it from the most stylish \$20.00 Spring Overcoat. Fine Tailor Made, latest style for 1899, fly front, correct overcoat length, velvet collar, sanitary arm fittings. **ORDER TODAY, DON'T DELAY.** For Free Cloth Samples of everything in men's tailoring, SUITS \$5.50 AND UP, WHITE FIVE PRICE BOOK \$1.00. (This free offer is limited to one per customer.) **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL.**



**FIT** EPILEPSY. Its only sure treatment. I insured an entire and rapid cure, to stay cured for life! I ask no fee. **DR. KRUSE CO., St. Louis, Mo.**

**MAGIC DIP NEEDLE** for locating Gold and Silver Ore, Lost or Hidden Treasures. Circulars and testimonials free. **P. & H. AGENCY, Palmyra, Pa.**

**WANTED** Man or lady to travel and appoint agents. Estab. firm. \$50 per month and expenses to start. **P. W. ZIEGLER & CO., 232 Locust St., Phila.**

**The Asbestos Pipe** CANNOT be told from clear, holds an ordinary pipe full tobacco and will last for years. Sample by mail with catalog to agents 10c. Stamp taken. Sell like hot cakes. Murphy Bros. Stamford Conn.

**OPIUM HABIT MORPHINE** Cured at home. Trial Free. No pain. Comp. Oxygen Asn., Fort Wayne, Ind.

**EXQUISITE RINGS FREE**

We will give a beautiful Solid Gold finished ring warrantable to any person who will sell 10c. of our beautiful enameled sick Pins at 10c. each. Send name and address and we will mail plus postage. You sell them and remit \$1 and we will mail the ring. **CLARK & CO., 100 Union St., Providence, R. I.**

**A BIG OFFER** 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, a sign that says "We pay in advance," bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. **GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.**

**THE MAGICAL SPONGE.** THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY. For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin. For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.

A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liverman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition. No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Raceboards, Window Sills, Washcoating and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men want all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once and secure your territory. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it.

You can sell this basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

**COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



HERE are many helpful hints in the various publications referring to the house, and it seems as though many of our readers might be glad to see a brief list, occasionally, in this department, of general information regarding matters that come into the daily life of every housekeeper. With this in view we have made a collection, and will give as many hints as possible in the next two or three editions.

For instance:

To remove a rusty screw, first heat the screw-driver and then apply to the screw, when it will easily turn.

To make the lamps burn brightly, soak the wicks in vinegar before using, and put a pinch of salt into the oil as well. Every part of the burner should be well washed and brushed as often as once a week.

To make a good black dye, mix together solutions of acetate of lead and sulphate of iron; filter, and then boil the article to be dyed in the mixture. Rinse well in water and then boil in water with chips of logwood; rinse again and hang out to dry, and the garment will be a good black.

A medical journal gives the following recipe for preventing excessive perspiration of the hands: Wash two or three times each day in tepid water in which club moss has been standing; change the moss every morning.

To clean brass trays, try lemon juice; if unavailable, mix a little salt with it, being careful not to scratch the tray with the salt.

For falling hair use castor oil and bay rum in equal proportions. It should be well rubbed into the roots of the hair with the tips of the fingers.

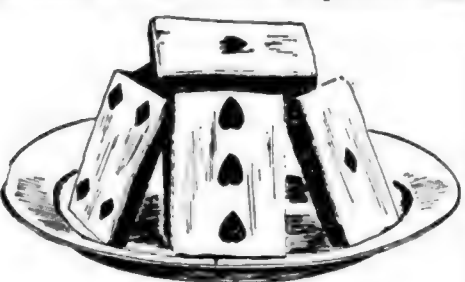
If you are troubled with an oily skin, try putting half a lemon into the water jug; the water and lemon should be changed every two or three days. Dry the face thoroughly after using this wash.

To avoid the breakage of lamp chimneys and glass globes, try tempering them when new. Put them in a large pan and cover with cold water. Set the pan on the range until the water boils, and then remove it from the fire and leave the globes in the water until it is perfectly cold.

Before putting away furs for the summer they should be very carefully examined and all dust and dirt removed from them by vigorous beating and brushing. To clean fur, rub it carefully against the grain, and when it has been thoroughly lifted and reversed, dip a piece of flannel into flour and rub lightly any spots that may look soiled. Shake well and rub with a piece of dry flannel. Sable and chinchilla may be cleaned with hot bran; rub the bran into the fur and leave for a few minutes and then shake off the bran.

To clean bed-ticking, first carefully remove the feathers and then shake the cases so that all the down will be removed. Rinse in cold water in which has been dissolved a teaspoonful of permanganate of potash. When this is thoroughly rubbed in, wring and dry the cases, and rub the inside with a piece of beeswax. This is to prevent the disagreeable working through of the feathers when the cases are again filled.

Borax is the housekeeper's best friend. Its uses are many and great. It is an excellent preservative for milk, meat, butter and all animal foods. It softens and purifies water for household purposes; it may be used in the place of soda in washing linen; it cleans and purifies sponges and removes unpleasant odors



FOR A CARD PARTY.

from the kitchen sink. It gives a luster to glass and silver when washed in it, and cleans marble. For a head wash it is excellent, removing dandruff. Above all, it is inexpensive.

To revive cut flowers, put the stems into very hot water and leave until water is cold. Then cut the ends of the stems off and slit up the stalks of the flowers and place in cold water.

Now for a few recipes.

We give an illustration of cake, cut and decorated to imitate playing cards. These are especially appropriate for refreshment at a card party. For making, use a recipe for a good, plain, fine-grained cake, and bake in shallow pans, so when cut the pieces will be very thin. Cut in the shape of cards and frost with white frosting after cutting; then use candied cherries to show the spots on the cards; diamonds and hearts may be cut from the cherries with a knife, or the cherries may be used whole and simply stuck on, to imitate the ace, three or six spot, as desired. A cookie mixture will be used instead of cake, and then the cards may be exceedingly thin. The vanilla

wafer recipe given last month is especially adaptable for this.

For a dessert, nothing is more attractive and at the same time palatable than oranges, served French style.

Select oranges having fine skins. Cut away one-third from the end of each orange and with a spoon remove all the pulp. Use only the



ORANGES, FRENCH STYLE.

larger parts, cutting the edges in small points. Put the skins in cold water until ready to serve. Press the juice from the pulp, using a vegetable press or ricer. There should be, to six oranges, a pint of juice. Add to this quantity the juice of two lemons and a cup of sugar. Have ready half a box of gelatine soaked in a cup of cold water and dissolved in a half cup of boiling water. Strain the gelatine into the juice, stir until the sugar is dissolved, then set away to chill. When ready to serve arrange the skins on a dish, collectively, or arrange on separate plates to be served individually; fill with the jelly cut in cubes, and decorate with whipped cream and candied cherries.

## German Finishing Schools.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN South Germany are finishing schools for young ladies, which, while they are most beneficial and useful in their work, differ widely from the so-called finishing schools of this country. Indeed, they are intended to supplement the schools which, with us, are supposed to cap the climax of a society girl's education; for, in order to be eligible to one of these German schools, a girl must be able to pass a satisfactory examination in arithmetic and in English and German grammar, and must speak and write her own language correctly.

These schools generally number from ten to twenty boarders, each of whom has a separate bedroom. Every morning after breakfast each girl is expected to make her own bed and dust and arrange her room. Once or twice a month



she is obliged to alter the arrangement of the furniture that she may know how to arrange rooms. Every week she is called upon to take her dresses from the closets where they hang, and to pack them in a trunk together with everything else which she might need for a long visit away from home. The mistress of the school inspects her work, when finished, and points out ways in which it might be improved.

Very few servants are kept in these schools, but these few hold the office of teachers of the girl pupils rather than that of servants, and for this reason are selected with especial care. At the commencement of a term the girls are informed by the mistress that four of them are required each week to take absolute care of the house. These four must rise early in the morning, and see to the preparation of the breakfast. After breakfast they make their beds and tidy their rooms as usual, and then go around the house to see that others have done the morning work properly. The remainder of the forenoon is spent by them in preparing the midday dinner for the family. The menu for this has already been given them by the mistress, and their work in the kitchen is supervised by the cook, who oversees, directs, advises, and prevents waste.



These four girls take turns, during their week of service, in sitting at the head of the table,

## SEND ONE DOLLAR

Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this NEW BIG RANGE by freight, C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, the greatest value you ever saw or heard of and equal to ranges costing \$350.00 and \$400.00, pay the freight agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, \$18.95 and freight charges. THIS STOVE WEIGHS 440 POUNDS and the freight will average: 100 miles, \$5 to \$6; 300 miles, \$6 to \$10; 500 miles, \$10 to \$15; 600 miles, \$15 to \$20; 700 miles, \$20 to \$25; 800 miles, \$25 to \$30; 900 miles, \$30 to \$35; 1000 miles, \$35 to \$40; 1100 miles, \$40 to \$45; 1200 miles, \$45 to \$50; 1300 miles, \$50 to \$55; 1400 miles, \$55 to \$60; 1500 miles, \$60 to \$65; 1600 miles, \$65 to \$70; 1700 miles, \$70 to \$75; 1800 miles, \$75 to \$80; 1900 miles, \$80 to \$85; 2000 miles, \$85 to \$90; 2100 miles, \$90 to \$95; 2200 miles, \$95 to \$100; 2300 miles, \$100 to \$105; 2400 miles, \$105 to \$110; 2500 miles, \$110 to \$115; 2600 miles, \$115 to \$120; 2700 miles, \$120 to \$125; 2800 miles, \$125 to \$130; 2900 miles, \$130 to \$135; 3000 miles, \$135 to \$140; 3100 miles, \$140 to \$145; 3200 miles, \$145 to \$150; 3300 miles, \$150 to \$155; 3400 miles, \$155 to \$160; 3500 miles, \$160 to \$165; 3600 miles, \$165 to \$170; 3700 miles, \$170 to \$175; 3800 miles, \$175 to \$180; 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## I LONG FOR MY DREAM TO COME TRUE.

(HIGH VOICE.)

SUSIE DAWSON BROWN.

R. C. GARLAND.

*Moderato.* *mf*

1. I sit by the brook as it rip - ples by, And it sings but one name to my  
2. It may be the brook sang a lul - la - by, Or it may be the leaves o'er -

*Moderato.* *mf* *rit.*

heart, And I dream of the days when you and I Ne'er thought of the time to part. For man - y an hour have we lin - gered here, 'Neath the  
head Whis - pered a word that was half a sigh, That told me that love was not dead; For I wake at the touch of a gen - tle kiss, And the

shade of the old ma - ple tree, And I dream you are here by my side once more, You are here by the brook with  
clasp of a hand warm and true, Ah, is it a dream you are here, dear love, A . . dream that my arms hold

*Poco animato.*

me. I long for my dream to come true, dear heart, I long for my dream to come true, For why should it be that  
you? I know that my dream has come true, dear heart, I know that my dream has come true, For why should it be that

*Sra.....loco.* *Sra.....loco.*

we should ev - er part, Since you love me and I love you. I love you, Since you love me and I love you.

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F. H. GILSON COMPANY, MUSIC TYPEGRAPHERS, BOSTON, U. S. A.

## EARLY MUSIC IN AMERICA.

## Some of the Later and More Progressive Steps in the Art.

The first steps in American Music may be traced back to the English Colonies of New England. Although the Cavaliers settled Virginia years before the Pilgrims reached Plymouth in the *Mayflower* and operatic concerts at a later date were given in Richmond, Baltimore and Charleston through the patronage of the wealthy Southerners, who sent to England for the singers, yet it is a very curious historical fact that the first real earnest interest in musical matters in this country was taken by Psalm-singing Puritans.

From barbarously sung simple psalmody there arose the present musical culture in the United States, which exists with sufficient degree and strength to elicit the admiration of every art-lover and really justifies the hope and belief that at no very future date there will be recognized a distinctive and creative American School of Music.

During the civil wars in England the Puritans, rigid in their beliefs, took delight in destroying organs, music books and choirs and even in driving musicians from the galleries. At the same time they sang psalms by the whole congregation in church. Here in New England about 1720, singing societies were everywhere established for the cultivation and improvement of church music, which gradually diffused musical knowledge and cultivated love for music itself. The Clergy advocated it as harmless recreation, and in 1712 Rev. John Tufts produced the first musical text book of America: "A Very Plain and Easy Instruction in the Art of Singing Psalm Tunes. With a collection of Tunes in three Parts."

We can scarcely imagine what would have been the surprise of these early Puritans, painfully laboring over the rude notes and printing of this early work, to have looked forward and seen the rapid strides that would be made by the art in this country during the next three centuries. Instruments, books, music and all have made a progress wonderful to contemplate. But nothing has done so much to elevate the general taste for good music as the recent production of the best music at the lowest possible price; a price that a few years ago would have been looked on as incredible.

In another column of COMFORT appears our wonderful music offer. It is exactly the same music in shape, looks, print and paper, as you are accustomed to pay from fifty cents to a dollar for at all stores, and every piece is a selected gem in its own order. No person who cares for music or who has friends caring for it should neglect to try this offer once; after that you will have it no other way for you will be satisfied with our great popular arrangement.

The list in the offer published this month contains a lot of brand-new pieces by popular authors and we would call particular attention to Nos. 193, 194, 198, 197, 198, 201, 202, 203 and 204, all of which will be found leaders in their own lines. All of them are fresh and deserving of particular mention, but this month's list is so long that we do not feel competent to particularize the various beauties, for our space is limited.

It is just possible that some reader has not tried the merits of this grand offer and may think there is some catch or evasion. We will return your money if you find we misrepresent or exaggerate this in any particular. We know you will like it. "I received the music and it is perfectly satisfactory. I think it is the best I ever saw and I don't see why it is not just as good as the sheet music that I have to pay 50c. and 60c. for," writes Miss Lottie V. Codding,

Mansfield, Mass. "Was more than satisfied. Was surprised at the excellent quality," says W. O. Harden, Seattle, Wash.

Thus from both sides of the continent comes the same word of praise for the excellence of the music that COMFORT sends out under this popular offer. We could add hundreds of equally encouraging and enthusiastic words from people living in every part of our country and, in spite of the vast business which necessarily must follow such an unexampled offer to the people, we are pleased to say no complaints come excepting at infrequent intervals when there is a possible delay in the mails. The offer and the music never fail to give even greater satisfaction than we anticipated. Be sure to try the offer either for yourself or a friend and show it to such of your friends as are now paying store prices for their music.

## SAYINGS OF CHILDREN.

A little maiden of five recently succeeded in causing a decided sensation at the dinner table. Several guests were present, and when all had been served with soup the little one was asked if she would have some. To the dismay of her mother and the amusement of the guests she replied: "No I thank you; I saw it made—that was quite enough for me."

The wife of one of Harvard's professors was to give a reception, not long ago, and told her young son that he must stay in another part of the house, which very much displeased the little fellow. When it was time for the guests to arrive, nobody would be hostess saw several carriages drive up to the door, hesitate and then drive away again. After this had been repeated several times she went to the door and discovered that her hopeful son had tied a piece of crepe on the door knob, and the guests, supposing a death had suddenly occurred in the house, drove away again.

When asked what he intended to be when he

grew up, Willie said: "If I can't have a blue baker's cart with a spotted dog to run under it, I would like to be either a tramp or a minister."

Rob always walked on the shady side of the street, because, he said, referring to his shadow, "I don't want that thing following me all around."

Little Helen was eating her dessert of sliced peaches, and finding she was getting short of cream she said: "Papa, I want some more cream." "Not on your life" said Pa. "No, on my peaches," said the bright one.

Jack, having heard some one use the expression "shoot him on the spot," was asked what he would do if he saw a man trample on "Old Glory." He promptly said, "I would shoot the spot on him."

Lowell, aged four, was always given a penny when he started for Sunday School, which he was supposed to put in the contribution box. On his way to the church he passed an apothecary shop and one day the clerk told his father that his boy came in regularly on Sunday and bought a stick of candy. The clerk was told not to sell him any more candy on Sunday, and Lowell was told nothing about it. The following Sunday Lowell put in his appearance as usual, on his way to church, and the clerk said, "I can't sell you any candy on Sunday." Looking very much disappointed, but saying nothing, Lowell disappeared. In a few minutes the door of the drug store opened enough to admit a tiny fist in which was a big stick of candy, and through the crack came a triumphant voice saying, "There are others!"

Four-year-old Grant complained of not feeling well, and his father suggested that he might have chicken-pox, then prevalent. Early the next morning Grant came down stairs looking very serious, and said: "I guess you was right about the chicken-pox, pa; I found a feather in the bed."

Four-year-old Roscoe of Bangor, had all his life been an unusually good boy, so much so that his mother had never been obliged to whip him; but the time came when the rod had to be applied, and just before the application he asked his mother if he might step into the next room and pray. Of course he was allowed to do this, and the door being ajar his mother heard him pray, as he knelt at the bed: "O God, if you're ever going to help a little boy, help him now!"



## Light Upon the Dark Continent.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AFRICA no longer means to the civilized world simply "negroes," "Egypt" or the "Sahara." It is no longer a place of mystery and myth but of good, solid, practical reality. Africa is of use to commerce, so Africa comes to be known as it is and not as poets and novelists picture it. Commerce is ever an educator.

Some things we would do well to remember in regard to the physical features of Africa. First, the equator crosses Africa about half way from North to South and it also crosses by the two tropics, so that nearly all the continent is in the torrid regions. This would make Africa almost uninhabitable for white men were it not that a large part of this region is so high above the sea that it has a temperate climate. In fact, nearly all of the continent is a great highland, with a low, unhealthy coastal plain, only a few miles wide, along the seacoast.

Of all the rivers of the earth the Nile has probably been most talked of and written about. Every one knows that it overflows its banks every year, but how many know why? Rising four thousand miles from its mouth, far up on the highest part of the plateau, in the lake region of Central Africa, it receives the waters from Lake Albert, Lake Albert Edward and Victoria Nyanza (the largest lake in Africa). Beside this, hundreds of small streams from the high ranges of Abyssinia pour their torrents into the Nile during the rainy season, and the water flows over the low bank in Egypt, but with the approach of the dry season the small streams dwindle away and dry up, and the Nile becomes a small muddy river. The deeply cut bed of the Upper Nile shows how the river has worn away the rock and secured the material which it spreads out on the fertile plain along its lower banks. For hundreds of miles it runs through the desert skirted on either side with a fringe of green a few miles wide. When the Nile is flooded it is said to pour into the Mediterranean nearly five times as much water as when the flood has gone down. About five hundred miles from the sea is the first of the great cataracts and here navigation for large steamers stops. Caravans across the desert take up the trade from here, and the old civilization comes in contact with the new.

The great interest of Egypt is not its cotton, its rice or its sugar, but the grand monuments of ancient civilization, the Pyramids and Sphinxes and wonderful temples, many of them buried deep in the desert sand, which for centuries has blown over that region as it blows to-day. England has good reason for wishing to hold Egypt within her grasp. The control of the Suez Canal makes it possible to shorten the journey from England to India by many hundred miles. Furthermore, it is important that she should hold the Lake Region and open to trade the rich lands of the highland. For this purpose England, with her usual insistence upon improvement, is at present engaged in building a railroad which shall connect Victoria Nyanza with the Indian Ocean.

Along the Nile, England has a "sphere of influence" which has always been undisputed by European nations. It is the dream of all British statesmen to extend this "sphere of influence" through Central Africa until it reaches the English colonies at the south. "From Cairo to Cape Town" is the phrase that pleases their ears. In the autumn of '98 all the world was roused by the news of the victory of Sir Herbert Kitchener over the Dervishes at Omdurman, opposite Khartoum. It was at the hands of these religious zealots that Gordon lost his life at Khartoum, and now he was avenged. With the occupation of the city of Khartoum by Kitchener the disputed territory of the Upper Nile was in the hands of the English and Egyptians. Hard upon this

inclined to sympathize with the English view of the case and to look to the sturdy Briton as the civilizer of Central Africa.

The Desert of Sahara is a byword for desolation. One's thought of it is a vast, level, sandy plain with here and there a little bunch of palm trees and a well—the ideal oasis. How different is the reality. Less than half is a sandy waste. In the Eastern part are high, stony table-lands, some of them five thousand feet above sea level, and lofty peaks, snow-capped a part of the year. When this snow melts small streams of water run down the mountains nourishing the date trees in the valleys and even making possible the raising of a little wheat. The western part of the desert is lower and more sandy, and the sand is blown into drifts called dunes, sometimes six hundred feet high. Here the simoon, or sand storm rages, blowing the dry sand in clouds which darken the sun and bring death to men and camels. An oasis is often much more than the fertile "spot" in the desert, for it sometimes covers miles of inhabitable land and has good-sized towns upon it. At one time it was thought that the Sahara might be flooded from the Atlantic Ocean or Mediterranean Sea, making an inland sea, which would be more easily used than the desert, but it is now known that only a small portion is below the surface of the sea.

South of the Sahara and bordering upon it is the much talked of Soudan, reaching from the Atlantic to the Nile and Khartoum. It consists of fertile plains and forest lands and contains within its borders Lake Tsad. This is a shallow inland sea, which, in the rainy season, becomes larger than Lake Superior, but in the dry season shrinks to one-fourth its size, leaving thousands of square miles of swamps and marshes along its banks. It is in this region that the negroes are found in their native state. They are not savages but are well advanced in the knowledge of agriculture and simple manufacture, and they carry on a large trade with the towns about Lake Tsad where caravans meet. The ivory from the tusks of elephants is their chief source of wealth. This wealth in the past was the curse of the people, for it was to bear these huge tusks that they were driven through the forest by the white man and sold as slaves when they reached the coast.

About in the center of Africa is the Kongo



AN ARAB ENCAMPMENT.

River. It is said to drain a larger area than any other river in the world except the Amazon of South America. Its basin is almost entirely on the plateau of Central Africa, half a mile above sea level. Much of this basin was probably, in former times, a great inland sea several times as large as the Caspian Sea in Europe. Finding an outlet to the ocean it wore a deep gorge in the mountains, and left upon the highland the fertile plain which is now covered with dense forests. The river sweeps down from the high peaks and ranges of Eastern Africa, foaming over the cataracts at Stanley Falls, and flowing as a navigable stream for a thousand miles across the plateau when it bursts in a chain of grand cataracts over the plateau edge and through the gorge of Yellala. Vessels of fair size enter the river from the sea but they can go but a few hundred miles when they are stopped by the falls and rapids. Goods must then be transported overland to a point above the falls where other steamers ply the river for hundreds of miles into the interior. This is the region of large, fierce animals—the chimpanzee, gorilla, crocodile, elephant and rhinoceros.

South of the Kongo, and flowing into the Indian Ocean, is the Zambezi River. Its basin is thickly forested at the north, merging into the Desert of Kalahari on the south. Like the Kongo it flows through the plateau and then falls to the coastal plain in a series of falls of great beauty and grandeur. The Kalahari desert is known chiefly as the home of the Bushmen, a tribe of negroes, very small of stature and living almost entirely by hunting. The southern portion of Africa, known as Cape Colony, is at the end of the great African plateau. In fact, Table Mountain near Cape Town may be said to be the southern extremity of the highland. Here we find the modern civilization of Europe, its railroads, telegraphic lines and newspapers. Perhaps the most interesting industry of this region, and certainly the most important to the inhabitants, is the diamond mining. At Kimberly is the richest diamond mine in the world and the value of the diamonds is greater than all the other exports of Cape Colony.

Thus we find in Africa the newest and the oldest civilizations, the savage and the city-bred exquisite, high mountains, snow covered, descending to malaria-haunted plains. It is a land of fair prospects with a history behind it. America must look to her laurels to keep pace with Africa in the progress of the world.



victory came the tidings that a French force under Major Marchand had appeared at Fashoda, a small town on the Nile several hundred miles to the south. This was an intrusion which could not be tolerated, for the French government had been duly warned that any appearance of French troops in the Nile valley would be considered an unfriendly act. General Kitchener immediately marched a portion of his army to Fashoda and requested the removal of Marchand's command from Egyptian and therefore British territory. For some time relations between the two governments were somewhat strained, but in the end his government ordered Major Marchand to retreat along the Niger, over which the "sphere of influence" of the French extends, and from which direction the troops of France had come to try the mettle of England. Although the affair is not yet settled, the civilized world is

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Chaplain Wright of the —th N. Y. was picking his way through the mud to the field station of the U. S. Military Telegraph, back of the Falmouth Heights whence Burnside had crossed into Fredericksburg with so much difficulty. Gen. Zook had ordered the Chaplain to report by telegraph the tragic death of her husband to the widow of Schulz the bugler. Entering the tent furnishing housing to the instruments of the field telegraph and to the redoubtable old sergeant presiding over

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## Hens' Eggs and Their Make-Up.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**T**HE farmer's wife usually fails the duty of taking care of the chickens, and the cash received for eggs sold is commonly regarded as her special perquisite. With the "egg money" she buys her dresses and the few simple luxuries that signify so much to her in the way of comfort. Indeed, what the rural housewife does not know about hens and eggs would seem to be hardly worth knowing.

And yet it would appear that even she might learn a thing or two from certain investigations which experts of the Department of Agriculture have been making recently. Take for example the make-up of an egg, considered with reference to its food value. Sixty-six per cent. of it, the experts have learned, is just ordinary water; a little over 10 per cent. is shell, and 1 per cent. more is mineral matter contained in the material of the inside. This calculation leaves 23 per cent. of food substance, of which two-thirds is muscle-forming stuff, the remaining third being fat.

Now, it is often said that there is as much nourishment in one egg as in a pound of meat. This, the experts declare, is not true. Eggs are just about as nutritious as lean beef, pound for pound, but an egg weighs only two ounces. Accordingly, it would appear that eight eggs are required to furnish the equivalent of a pound of meat as food for a workman.

Another popular notion, long accepted, has been exploded by the investigators—namely, that brown-shelled eggs are more nutritious than white-shelled eggs. In order to make sure of the facts in this case, the experts analyzed the brown eggs of Partridge Cochins, Dark Brahmas, Black Langshans, Wyandottes, and Barred Plymouth Rocks, and the white eggs of Brown Leghorns, White Minorcas, and Black Minorcas. As a result, it was found that there was no difference between white eggs and brown eggs in respect to food value.

Next, experiments were made with the eggs of several breeds of hens, to find out if those laid by any particular variety had superior food value. It was proved, however, that they were all about the same in this respect. Then the effect of various kinds of rations on the composition of eggs was tested, some of the hens being fed on meat scraps, others on wheat, and others yet on corn and rice meal. It did not appear that the diet made any difference in this regard. Lastly, it was ascertained, by boiling eggs different lengths of time and digesting them artificially in a pepsin solution, that hard-boiled eggs are quite as digestible as soft-boiled ones—a conclusion directly opposite to long-accepted theory.

The old-fashioned "schoolmarm" used to teach her pupils that the bones and beak of a newly hatched chicken were made out of the white of the egg and the flesh and feathers from the yolk. It is safe to say that the average farmer's wife to-day knows a great deal better than that. She is probably aware that the white spot on one side of the yolk is the germ of the fowl that is to be, and that the developing bird derives its sustenance first from the yolk and next from the white. When the food supply thus provided by nature is exhausted, the chick is ready to chip the shell.

If a human infant one day old were able to walk about and pick up a living, the case would be considered marvelous. The chick, however, unlike the child, inherits experience, and when it emerges from its shell, has already solved a variety of problems, including those of locomotion on two legs, the edible properties of many food substances and the vocabulary of its anxious mother. This, however, is not a discussion of chickens but of eggs, and it ought not to be brought to a conclusion without some reference to the art of preserving eggs, upon which so much attention has been bestowed within the last few years.

Eggs, of course, are vastly cheaper and more plentiful in summer than in winter, and wholesale dealers in the cities have adopted the practice of gathering them up by millions from the farmers in the warm season and holding them over for sale during the cold months. Indeed, bakers and confectioners depend almost entirely upon preserved eggs for their winter supply. Up to date no thoroughly successful method of accomplishing this sort of preserving has been discovered, though a gigantic fortune awaits the inventor of a satisfactory process. Cold-storage does fairly well, but the eggs must not be frozen, and so decomposition is arrested only to a certain extent. Varnishes of vaseline and other substances have been tried, but the difficulty always lies in the fact that each egg encloses some air, and with the air germs of decay. The best process found thus far is to keep the eggs in lime-water, and in this way immense numbers are preserved annually. It is obvious that anybody who can buy summer eggs at twelve cents a dozen and sell them in winter, strictly fresh, at thirty cents a dozen, will soon be a millionaire.

From the wild "jungle fowl" of India, which lays only a few small white eggs annually, all modern varieties of chickens are known to be descended. Out of this bird, by breeding, has been developed a feathered creature that lays nearly all the year round, and which produces its own weight in eggs in six weeks! The individual egg, be it realized, has been multiplied in weight by five. Thus the modern hen's egg may be regarded, in a sense, as an artificial product. To accomplish this wonderful result many thousands of years have been required, and it is known that the Chinese, long before the beginning of the Christian era, bred chickens and domesticated several improved varieties of them. Even in those days they understood the use of incubators.

People who live in cities complain that they find it very difficult to get fresh eggs at any cost. This is because so many buyers and sellers intervene between the hen and the consumer. Eggs are sometimes collected from the farmers by men who drive about in buggies and gather them at a stated price. One farmer

may have thirteen, and another thirteen dozen; there is nothing regular about the crop, and the eggs may have been accumulating for a period greater or less. Other eggs are exchanged by the farmers' wives for goods at the village stores, and in this way millions are brought to market, the storekeepers having relations with wholesalers' agents. Eventually, whatever may be the method, the eggs arrive at the wholesale houses in the cities, where they undergo first of all a process of classification.

This process is accomplished by what is known as "candling". That is to say, an expert, in classifying the eggs, holds each one for a moment between his eye and a candle. If perfectly fresh, all parts of it will appear clearly illuminated. The slightest staleness will be shown by a certain degree of opacity. So easy is it to test eggs in this way, in a dark room, that any housewife can do it satisfactorily for herself without any practice at all. An adept in the business, however, is able to "candle" in a day's work of ten hours, fifteen barrels of eggs. Improved methods of candling have been adopted recently, one of which consists in putting the eggs in a wire crate and placing the latter upon a sheet of glass through which a powerful electric light shines from beneath. This instantly betrays any stale specimens, which are readily removed.

The cracked eggs go to bakers and to cheap restaurants, at half-price. The hopelessly rotten ones are bought by leather manufacturers. Those which are only partly "gone" are sold mostly to poor Hebrews, at five cents a dozen wholesale. In the large cities eggs of this class are usually retailed afterwards by liquid measure, at so much a pint, being separated from the shells. They may not be specially appetizing, but they afford a great deal of nutriment in proportion to their cost.

## THE MINUTE MAN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**T**O read of the places of historical interest in Massachusetts is one thing—but to actually visit them is an occurrence to be treasured as long as life lasts.

Of course Plymouth comes first in our desires, and here are to be seen, among many other things, the Rock, now carefully guarded by being enclosed within an iron railing; Pilgrim Hall, with its many relics of our forefathers, the old graveyards in which they were laid to rest, and the Statue of Hope, presented by the late Oliver Ames, in memory of the Pilgrims.

At Salem and in Boston are numberless historic places—and at Concord and Lexington we find the old battlefields and relics of the revolution. Here we may spend days and days in quiet enjoyment. The towns in themselves are extremely beautiful and restful, so there is no desire to leave them even after everything has been seen. At Concord we find Sleepy Hollow, in which lies at rest Hawthorne, Emerson and Thoreau. Here also we find the beautiful statue of the Minute Man, which stands at the end of the bridge crossing the Concord river. This statue shows a finely built young man, dressed in the Continental costume and holding a musket—one hand resting on a plow. The figure is mounted on a huge square granite pedestal, upon which is inscribed the following verse:

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world."

For the Sake of Illustration.

BY MRS. E. S. L. THOMPSON.

"Annie," he said drawing his chair nearer the divan on which a woman with snow-white hair sat toying with a current magazine.

"Meeting you here to-day is the unexpected! Twenty-five years since you refused to run away and marry me. Twenty-five years since I laid my hand on your brown curls in a parting blessing! You married the man of all men—Annie I would rather have seen you dead than wed to him! Yet, God knows, when I heard the wedding bells had rung I prayed for His blessing on you and yours! Where is—Edward?"

"Dead, five years ago!"

"And your children? Three little boys and a girl, Jack told me."

"All gone but Donald, the eldest, he is in South America."

"And you are alone, all alone?"

Richard Cathcart left the chair and sat down beside her. Yet neither kiss nor caress did he offer!

"We have both suffered," he said very gently. "I should have been more patient and waited your father's pleasure. He would have yielded in another year when you were older. When I joined the Regular Army I expected to remain indefinitely."

"Instead I served ten years; how faithfully my crutches can attest. Since my discharge I have roamed over the world." He smiled down on the handsome woman who still looked herself all but the white hair. I knew I needed a home—and yet—I didn't want one without you!

"I hadn't heard of Edward's death—Jack did not mention it in his letters when I returned from Germany three years ago. Nor did he speak of your children, only that you had three boys and a girl. You remember Gerald Hough? I returned to England visiting him at his father's home in Surrey. Their home was on The Solent; I spent six months there and aided him in the revision of his book."

"Then we went to Switzerland for a rest and his cousin, Madame Du Reau, was of our party. 'Perhaps my story will be tiresome?' he turned a face full of entreaty toward her. 'I've waited twenty-five years for a word! It

comes to-night without our seeking. When I registered my name I saw yours and knew at once who it was—"

"Go on Mr.—Dick!" Her voice trembled; a white, jeweled hand reached out—and then drew back!

"You are free!" he cried hoarsely, "but I am not! I married Urseline Du Reau—to us was born a son—dead!"

"But yesterday I left her in a private asylum for the insane. Dr. Joliet pronounces her a curable patient—I will have my wife again!"

"She is beautiful, and pure, and true—I have tried to make her happy—and yet Annie, is it wrong to ask if you have kept any memory of Dick in your heart all these years?"

"That you were a faithful wife and a good mother I know; you could not have been otherwise. You are a queen among women still! You were my soul's mate and I was yours! You have the boy to love and I have—your memory!"

Richard Cathcart groaned out the last words he would ever say to Annie Wallerand.

He was a proud, self-sustained, and virtuous man.

Her deep eyes shone with the old love! Her sweet, perfect mouth tried to frame an answer. The white, waving hair—so like a crown of shining silver, all at once leaned against his breast!

The years of his lost youth came back to him—he clasped her in his arms!

But why did she not respond? Must he plead in vain for one word?

"Annie!" He uplifted the dear face with a passionate entreaty. The chord of life had snapped—he looked into the face of the dead!

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DR. D. A. WILLIAMS, East Hampton, Conn.



## Among Our New Possessions.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

should have monopoly of the trade and territory in certain portions to the exclusion of other nations, and that this general partition should take place, each power having its own zone for future development and trade. On the contrary, the English and American nations have strenuously held out for the "open door" policy, which simply means that all nations are to have equal rights in every trading port in China. The latest nation to appear in this struggle is Italy, which demands the lease of Sam Mun Bay in the province of Che-Kiang as a coaling station and naval base. There has been very much friction between the Italians and the Tsung-Li-Yanen, which is the Chinese Foreign Affairs office. Under pretence of insult, the Italians have withdrawn from negotiations and are preparing for a naval demonstration and probable seizure of the port which they covet. The Chinese Government has refused all demands and is supported by Great Britain, notwithstanding that reports to the contrary have been published. It is said the British Government would like to have the United States and Japan join with it to proceed against the foreign nations in China, even to the point of making a display of force, and engaging in hostilities to compel Italy to entirely withdraw from China. The other powers desire America to take no hand, as it has been for a long time the plan of all European nations to isolate England and so counteract her great and growing strength.

So anxious is the German empire to have cordial relations with the United States that it is generally believed the German Emperor is making his plans to bring that empire into close alliance with England, America and Japan. Already the causes for irritation between the Americans and Germans are disappearing and Admiral Von Diederichs, who has caused so



PREMIER FRANCISCO SILVEIRA.

much annoyance to Admiral Dewey, has been superseded by Prince Henry, the Emperor's brother, who will now have full command of the German naval forces in the East. Official newspapers in Germany are gradually working up the idea of the great Anglo-Saxon alliance, and placing the Germans as a Saxon nation. The general drift seems to be a withdrawal of Germany from its more southern neighbors, and it would seem that its vast and growing trade and manufacturing would naturally put it in league with the other great manufacturing countries. The most significant step in this direction has been the full withdrawal of Germany from the Philippines and placing her interests there in the hands of America.

One of the most noticeable things of the month has been the interview of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, who is in Europe negotiating for the great African railroad through the continent. Mr. Rhodes is a deep thinker and as Premier of Cape Colony has been practically the maker of South Africa and its wonderful prosperity. "It is the duty of civilized nations to take charge of barbarians and give them white man's government," he said. "The United States is one of the great Powers and cannot escape this duty." He declared that it would be found impossible for our country to abandon either Cuba or the Philippines. And further stated that within a century we should govern both North and South America. Mr. Rhodes is an "expansionist" of the broadest sort; but his experience and the fact that he is the leading English colonist of his day have caused his interview to be studied in every European Capital and it has caused wide comment and concern. Whether any of us agree with him or not, it is well to note how carefully every modern statesman is watching the great Republic that has grown so marvelously great, rich and strong in so short a time, and how whether we wish it or not our very successes have placed us in a commanding position in the family of Nations.

## Why "Tumblers."

PROBABLY it never occurred to many people to inquire why these glasses are called tumblers. Surely, they do not tumble any more than some other things not so named. But the name has a significant origin. Years ago, a luncheon was given to one of the royal Princesses, at Oxford, England. Of course the guests were supposed to converse on very weighty subjects. But what excited the interest and curiosity of the guests the most was a set of little round silver bowls about the size of an orange. They were brought round filled with ale brewed in the town. These were called tumblers, and the guests were shown why they were called so. When one of the little bowls was empty, it was placed upon the table mouth downward. So perfect was its balance, that instantly it flew back to its original position. No matter in what position

it was placed—trundled along the floor, balanced upon its side, dropped suddenly upon the soft carpet—up it would roll, and giving itself a few little shakings, would settle itself into the same old position. So our tumblers were first made of silver, but as glass became common, round ones that would stand on a flat base took the place of the silver balls and also took the name.

## The Tomb of the Holy Donkeys.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONCE upon a time there was a great Sheikh Ali, a holy man, who kept the holy tomb of an ancient prophet. The tomb was on a hill, under a big oak tree, and the white dome could be seen for miles around. Lamps were kept burning day and night in the tomb, and if any one extinguished them they were miraculously lighted again. Men with sore eyes came to visit it and were cured. The earth around the tomb was carried off to be used as a medicine. Women came and tied old rags on the limbs of the tree, as vows to the wonderful prophet. Nobody knew the name of the prophet, but the tomb was called "Kobren Nebi," or "Tomb of the Prophet."

A green cloth was spread over the tomb under the dome, and incense was sold by the Sheikh to those who wished to heal their sick, or drive out evil spirits from their houses. Pilgrims came from afar to visit the holy place and its fame extended over all the land. Sheikh Ali was becoming a rich man, and all the pilgrims kissed his hand and begged his blessing. Now Sheikh Ali had a faithful servant named Mohammed, who had served him long and well. But Mohammed was weary of living in one place, and asked permission to go and seek his fortune in distant parts. So Sheikh Ali gave him his blessing and presented him with a donkey, which he had for many years, that he might ride when tired of walking.

Then Mohammed, thus provided, set out on his journey. He went through cities and towns and villages, and at last came out on the mountains east of the Jordan in a desert place. No village or house was in sight, and night came on. Tired, hungry and discouraged poor Mohammed lay down by his donkey on a great pile of stones, and fell asleep. In the morning he awoke and, alas! his donkey was dead. He was in despair, but his kindly nature would not let the poor brute lie there to be devoured by jackals and vultures, so he piled a mound of stones over the body and sat down to weep.

While he was weeping a wealthy Hajji, or pilgrim, came along on his return from Mecca. He was surprised to see a man alone in this wilderness and asked him why he was weeping. Mohammed replied, "O Hajji, I have found the tomb of a holy prophet, and I have vowed to be its keeper; but I am in great need." The Hajji thanked him for the news, dismounted to visit the holy place and gave Mohammed a rich present. After he had gone Mohammed hastened to the nearest village and bought provisions and then returned to the holy prophet's tomb. The Hajji spread the news and pilgrims thronged to the spot with rich presents and offerings. As money came in Mohammed brought masons and built a costly tomb, with a tall white dome that could be seen across the Jordan. He lived in a little room by the tomb, and soon the miraculous lights began to appear in the tomb at night, which Mohammed had kindled when no one was near. He increased in fame and wealth and the prophet's tomb came to be regarded as one of the great shrines of the land.

At length Sheikh Ali heard of the fame of the new holy place in the desert, and as his own visitors began to fall off, decided to go himself and gain the merit of a visit to the tomb of that famous prophet. When he arrived there with his rich presents of green cloth, incense,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.)

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**THE OUTFIT IS FREE.** We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs us several dollars, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as references, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The \$1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

**AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.**

GENTLEMEN—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line.

Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age . . . . .

Married or single . . . . .

Address your letters plainly to

**AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.**

Honorable, genteel **WORK** either sex, no canvassing, no capital. Free Samples for stamp. Equitable Reporting Co., Dept. B, 247 W. 125th St., N.Y.

**SIX DOLLIES FREE.** For one dime we will send our fashion paper 3 mos. and give free SIX HANDSOME DOLLIES, in beautiful designs, ready to work. Right size for use on table. J. HERALD CO., Beaver Springs, Pa.

**FREE** We send this beautiful 18K Gold plated Gem Set Ring, set with 3 fine colored Gem Stones, Rubies, etc., beautifully finished. Also one package Handsome Silk Remnants, 1 yard Silk Ribbon, 1 piece Stone Set Bracelet also U. S. Flag Scarf Pin and Parlor Game, with our new Catalogue of Fancy Goods and Price Coupon, all for 10 cents to pay for mailing, etc. Address at once, L. E. GOGGINS, P. O. Box 31, Roselle, N. J.

**TEA SET FREE** 56 PIECES. Full size for family use, beautifully decorated and most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome china tea set and one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We meet what we say and will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the conditions of our wonderful offer to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion and torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 50 p. c. china tea set net worth \$2.00, we will send you a liberal inducement to every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. **AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. J, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.**

Rio, Wis. June 30th, 1898. GENTLEMEN—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to your using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than \$50.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as \$150.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE. Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 3c stamp for reply. We have hundreds of letters similar to Mr. Doyle's.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once. **AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.** GENTLEMEN—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line. Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line. Your age . . . . . Married or single . . . . . Address your letters plainly to **AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.**

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## The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.

It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-not. Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.  
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.  
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5x5x8 1/2.  
1 Design for Scarf Corner, 6 1/2x10.  
1 Clover Design for Dolly.  
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.  
1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 5 1/2x6.  
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5 1/2x6.  
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.  
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.  
1 Design for Fruit Plate Dolly, 5 1/2x3 1/2.  
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11 1/2x15 1/2.  
1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4.  
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.  
1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.  
1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.  
1 Design for Butter Plate Dolly, 3 1/2x3 1/2.  
1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.  
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.  
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.  
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6 1/2x6 1/2.  
1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.

The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 11x17 inches in size. As good as can be made. With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

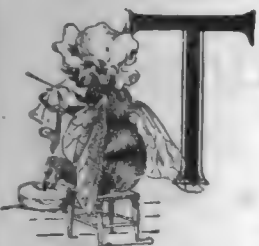
**AN OFFER TO EVERY LADY.** If you will send us only 25 cents we will send you our Outfit all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid.

Address COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.





WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



seem so much more appropriate than anything else, and are very strong and not at all liable to breakage; if, however, you do not happen to have one, use a broad glass dish.

First put a few stones in the dish and then put in the bulbs; then put in more stones, loosely, so as to allow the roots to grow among them; fill the dish with water and do not change it, but add fresh every day, that is of about the same temperature as that already in the dish.

I have heard that the Chinese gash the bulbs in several places before placing them in the water, for it is said that a stalk will come out of every gash, and so there will be a fine foliage.

In growing bulbs of any kind, it is considered best to keep them in the dark for a few weeks after putting them into water, and so giving the roots a chance to get well started before the tops come out; sometimes it is well to keep them in the dark for a couple of weeks, and then bring them gradually into the bright light—that is, take them from their dark corner in the closet and put them in a dark corner of a room, away from the window, for another week; by that time the roots will have got an excellent start, and the dish may be put near the window—but it is well not to keep it too near, as a moderate light is better for lilies than the glaring sunlight.

We came across, recently, in a search for novelties, a dainty little bag or box, which might be used for several things, but which seems specially adaptable to holding embroidery, scissors, silk etc.

When closed this bag resembles an oblong box with ruffles at the ends—and when open it



CHINESE LILY BULBS.

is simply flat and oblong in shape, with rounded ends. Our diagram shows the shape. For this is used silk of a delicate tint with little figures all over it, for the outside, and a plain China silk for a lining. The lining and outside are cut exactly alike, measuring seventeen inches wide by twenty inches long, with rounded corners. In the center, between the lining and outside, are placed five pieces of heavy cardboard, which form the top, bottom and sides of the box. Three of these pieces measure seven inches long by three and one-fourth inches wide, and one of these is laid exactly in the center, forming the bottom—the other two pieces of same size being laid on either side and close up to the first piece. These two pieces form the sides. The narrower pieces, but of the same length, seven inches long by two and one-eighth inches wide, are placed one at either side of the three already placed, and form the top of the box. A row of machine stitching goes entirely around all these pieces and so holds them exactly in place.

A delicate, narrow lace is inserted between the lining and outside, all around the edge, and stitched with the machine. Then a row of sixteen small brass rings is sewn around on the lining, as shown in our diagram, and through these rings is run a double row of narrow satin ribbon. When the ribbons are drawn up, one at each side, the box closes in perfect manner and shows a dainty receptacle like the picture entitled "Embroidery Box."

This is a great improvement on the bag used by almost every woman for her embroidery materials, which is one with a circular cardboard bottom, and the upper part of silk,

gathered onto this circle and drawn up with ribbon—for this box can be flattened out and the contents be looked over without taking anything out, or in any way disturbing the silks which so easily get tangled up.

There has recently come to the front, in large cities, a new branch of employment for women called "house-opening." The duties of such a woman are very trying, and only one with cast iron nerves should undertake them—but if she has executive ability and knows how, this is a fine chance for some women—notably those who have had fine homes of their own, but through misfortune have lost them—for they know exactly what to do. The idea is this: A lady who has been away for the summer wishes her home put in order before her arrival. She therefore writes to one of these house-openers, telling her the date of her arrival, and then her care in the matter ceases; not so the house-opener, however, for then her trouble begins; first she goes all over the house and sees just what is to be done, and then she seeks plumbers, painters, upholsterers, gas and electric men, and supervises each and all until finally, when the day arrives and with it Madame and her children and retinue of servants, the house is all in perfect order—even to the fresh flowers in all the rooms—for the

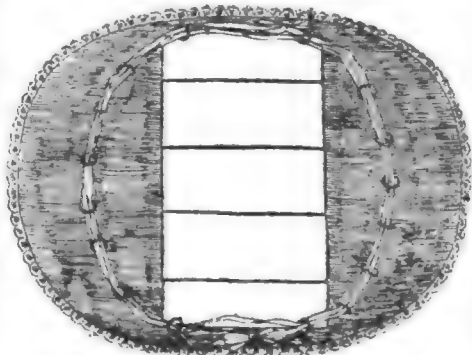


DIAGRAM OF BOX.

home-coming. What a blessing this must be for those who can afford it—for who but a housewife realizes what it is to come home to a musty house that needs repairing and freshening before it can be lived in with any degree of comfort.

ONE-TWO-ONE.

BY E. S. L. T.

He sat in the "madding crowd" at the great banquet. Fair women and brave men around and about him and yet he was all alone.

Success had come to this man now in his early forties—a large measure of fame, and power, and money. He had wed early. Too early in life for the ratification of his maturer judgment. The toy of Beauty, wherein dwelt no soul luster, had long since ceased to charm or inspire. He was hungry, heart and soul hungry, but none gave him bread! He was a thirst but none gave him drink! His broad white brow bore across it lines of care. His mouth—what a fine, expressive feature it was, had about and around it the agony of compression and pain.

His fine blue eyes were sad almost to tears. He forced smiles to his lips and flashed wit and repartee at those around him. The laughter and the talk ceased as he rose to respond to a toast. All eyes were fixed upon him. Every word that fell from his lips was a jewel—a finished prose poem. He warmed to his theme. His face lit up with a sudden glow.

Now, he catches a gleam in another pair of eyes! Something in the soul which they voiced had responded to his soul! The eyes of a stranger—he had wondered who she was, the slight figure gowned in black—seemingly unattended at that scene of festivity.

Grey-brown eyes over which the lids fell as suddenly as they had been raised! The face; ah, it was sad or sadder than his own. He studied the face as he talked on.

"Who is she and why here?" Already has his peace of mind been disturbed by that modest but earnest gaze. Such a listener as she is well worth the fire and eloquence with which he invests his theme! When the toasting and the feast is over there is the renewing of old acquaintances and the making of new ones. He misses part of her name when they are presented; it is—Graeme, but whether wife, maid, or widow he knows not.

Her low, sweet voice is tremulous and half afraid of its own sound. His own deep, musical baritone seems to swallow it as Death is swallowed up in victory! He notes that she is with his special friends Mr. and Mrs. Douglass Deleplane. He joins them on the gallery for a word with this plain woman. So plain that her more shining sisters wonder why the Deleplanes have brought her to this brilliant assemblage. He thinks of his dream as he watches her face light up, for he has joined the group; Mrs. Deleplane calls her "Hildegard"; Ah, Swinburne's roudel sings itself anew to him as he stands there, an unwonted flush on his fine face!

"These many years since we began to be What have the Gods done with us—what with me, What with my love? They have shown me fates and fears Harsh springs and fountains bitterer than the sea, Grief a fixed star, and Joy a vane that veers These many years."

He thought her eyes were beautiful. Those brown pupiled eyes with the changing shades of grey in them! He saw, too, that the soul of this woman was delicate and refined, that she was sensitive but not melancholy; sorrow had troubled her with its tumultuous breath, but it had sweetened and not embittered her nature. When Hildegard Graeme talked the little group listened! The dull ache at this man's heart lost itself in the infectious charm and brilliance of her speech and thought, in the almost perfect ripeness of her intellect! She was beautiful, she was radiant, when her lips moved and her soul let go its thrall.

One short hour! He had lived a lifetime in it—a lifetime of happiness and joy! He knew the wish was wrong, the hope vain, that he might be with her forever. Would it be possible for him to smile over the adieux that would

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20.)



## An Extraordinary Offer!

**\$4.00 BUYS THIS HANDSOME REGULAR \$12 COUCH.** Owing to the failure of a large furniture concern we had an opportunity to purchase over 3000 of these desirable couches at less than one-fourth their real value and while they last offer them at the ridiculously low price of \$4.00 each. Description: Full size, 76 inches long by 37 inches wide, upholstered in any color of American damask, full spring edge, 4 rows of best oil tempered springs, nicely finished and tufted with buttons and fringe on the side, frames all hardwood. Send us \$4.00 and mention this paper and we will make immediate shipment in any color of upholstery desired and send us \$1.00 as evidence of good faith and we will ship it C.O.D. with the privilege of examination for the balance of \$3.00. Order to-day. They will not last long. VICTOR MANUFACTURING CO., Dept. F. Z., 295 and 297 Fifth Ave., CHICAGO, ILL.

## The Century Plant.



somed at its twenty-fifth year; its total height is thirty feet, and its leaves measure from six to seven feet in length.

## CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

Wickliffe's Bible was the first translation made into the English language.

Fish found in the waters of the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky are without eyes.

## HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8 cents. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRENE DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

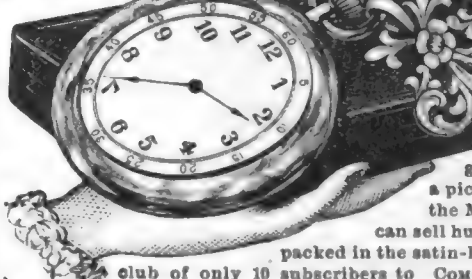
**DEAFNESS A Positive CURE FREE** DR. POWELL, 198 Dartmouth St., BOSTON, MASS.

**LATEST TALKING MACHINE FREE** THE GRAPHOPHONE

Talks and sings the latest songs and music. Ever new and entertaining. The Greatest and Best Home Amusement Machine. We give it FREE for a few spare hours devoted to our interest. Our plan is new. Write us for particulars and our mammoth catalogue of hundreds of useful articles.

PIGIRON BAKING POWDER CO., 75 Pearl St., Boston, Mass.

**FREE!**



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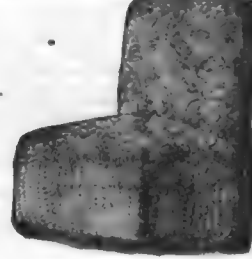
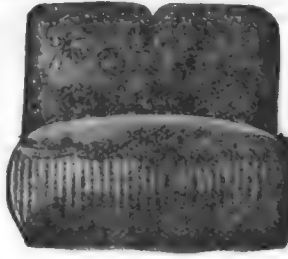
In An Elegant Case FREE.

Every Lady needs just such a Watch. No matter if she has a \$50.00 one it won't keep any better time and this is for use and every-day wear. It will last a life time. It is an entirely new pattern. The Pin is

good size, strong and handsome. Yes! pretty as a picture! Best of all, we got a Bargain on them, for the Makers are anxious to get them introduced, so we can sell hundreds where one goes first. We will send one,

packed in the satin-lined, Morocco covered case free, if you get up a club of only 10 subscribers to COMFORT at the special price of 25 cents per year. You can easily sell this Watch for \$5.00 if you want to, but after you get it you won't part with it for any money. Send us the 10 names and \$2.50 and the watch is yours, free. If any man has a sweetheart and wants to make her happy, he should get her this Watch at once. Sent for \$2.38 cash. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



PATENT APPLIED FOR

## A BEAUTIFUL UPHOLSTERED PARLOR SUIT

JUST LIKE THIS PICTURE FOR ONLY 12c.

Every child wants to treat her dolly just about right and the nicest articles are none too good for them. We are pleased to present this entirely new idea in Dolls' Stuffed Furniture. The set consists of two chairs and a sofa, they come in handsome figured goods in beautifully colored patterns, they are all ready to be sent by mail and filled in with cotton for only 12c., for the three pieces. Just think of it only four cents each for the three articles did you ever hear of such a thing before. We will send the set all filled in for 36c. as the weight of the filling makes the postage that much more expensive.

The children are all delighted and want several sets each, better order a dozen for 85c. and see how quickly they sell. One set including a 3 months' subscription to SUNSHINE only 12c.; three sets for 30c., 6 sets 50c., 1 doz. sets 85c., express or postpaid. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

## \$1.95 BUYS A \$3.50 Suit.

3,000 CELEBRATED "KANTWABOUT" double seat and double knee. Regular \$3.50 Boys' 5-Piece Knee-Pant Suits going at \$1.95. A NEW SUIT FREE for any of these suits which don't give satisfactory wear. Send No Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state age of boy and say whether large or small for age, and we will send you the suit by express, C.O.D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to suits sold in your town for \$3.50, pay your express agent our special offer price, \$1.95 and express charges.

THESE KNEE-PANT SUITS are for boys from 4 to 15 years of age, and are retailed everywhere at \$3.50. Made with double seat and knees, latest 1899 styles as illustrated, made from a special weaving, heavy weight, ALL-WOOL, Gabardine, Cassimere, neat, handsome pattern, fine serge lining, Clayton patent interlining, padding, staying and reinforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor-made throat, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of. FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES if Boys' Clothing (suits, overcoats or undersuits) for boys 4 TO 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 900. Contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.

Men's Suits and Overcoats made to order from \$1.00 up. Samples sent free on application.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

## PERFECTION NURSING BOTTLE HOLDER

Pins to pillow. No rubber tube, no "propping up," no broken bottles and no spilled milk. A perfect self nurser. Send 25 cents for style in cut or write for booklet of styles for any bottle. Agents wanted.

BOTTLE HOLDER CO., Old Town, Maine.

## LADIES TO EMBROIDER.

Agenuine offer! No Canvasing or Selling. We do not promise Big Wages but Pay is Sure and we will amass you with the absolute truth of your past and future. Send only ten cents, your name, address, and date of birth. Everything confidential. Address TITBIN SARAH, Astrologer, Box 10016, Phila., Pa.

## YOUR FORTUNE NOW LIES BEFORE YOU

A complete life astrological reading furnished by Zephrah, the world-renowned Egyptian Astrologer. He will amass you with the absolute truth of your past and future. Send only ten cents, your name, address, and date of birth. Everything confidential. Address TITBIN SARAH, Astrologer, Box 10016, Phila., Pa.

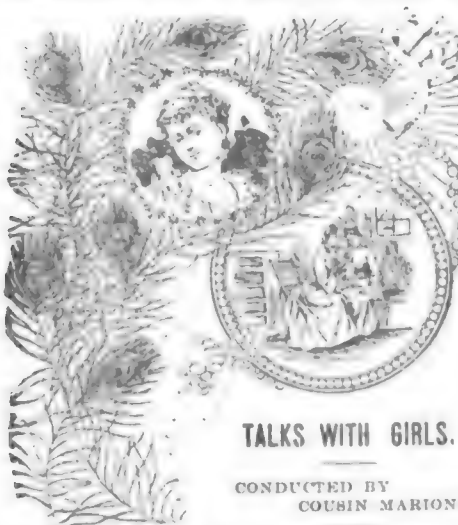
## 2 CENTS.

We will send for a two-cent Postage Stamp a sample of this Triple Silver-plated Ladies' Luck Star. The Star and words are in blue enamel. Sample, by mail, Two Cents. Address LYNN & CO., 48 BOND ST., NEW YORK.

## GOLD WATCH OR RING FREE.

We give a beautiful gold plated watch with a genuine American movement, for selling only twenty packages of our wonderful new perfume at 10c. per package. Each watch is perfectly timed regulated and guaranteed for one year; just the same as an Elgin or Waltham. We give a gold fitted ring, guaranteed to wear two years, for selling only one package of 10c. packages. These rings can be sold from \$100.00 diamond rings even by experts, and can be traded for other valuable property. SEND NO MONEY Simply send your name and address on a postal card and we will mail you the perfume; also our large premium list of costly presents and hundreds of useful articles. When perfume is sold send us the money and we will send you the present at once. We take perfume back if you can't sell. STANDARD PERFUME CO. 273 Dearborn St., Dept. 2 CHICAGO, ILL. (This firm is reliable and will do exactly as they agree.—EDITOR)





## TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY  
COUSIN MARION.

An April greeting to you all, my dears, and may the glad sunshine of spring be in all your hearts. Now let us to business, for there are many of you to talk to individually.

The first from your big pile of letters is from Cousin Julia B., away down at Skidmore, Texas, who wants to know the address of Miss Helen Gould. I fancy a letter addressed to her at New York City would reach her, but I may tell Cousin Julia that it is needless to ask any favors of Miss Gould as she has more to do now than forty young women could attend to.

Anna, Farmington, Mo.—Write to the Postmaster, Paterson, N. J., for the addresses of silk manufacturers in that town, and from them you can learn what you want to know.

Sallye and Anne, Allington, Texas.—The young man who is secretly engaged to two girls is neither true nor manly, and both of them should inform him of it and have no more to do with him. Thank you very much, Cousin Sallye, for the sweet little poem.

Genevieve, New York City.—Have a little talk with the young man who insists on paying your car fare every evening home, and let him know how you feel about it. He is all right, I should say, if you let him understand your position. Of course he has no right to annoy you with his attentions.

Cousin Marie, of Austin, Ills.—Will send the language of stamps to any of the cousins wanting it. I think the national flower question has been answered.

L. L. S., DeMossville, Ky.—Write to The John Church Company, Cincinnati.

Sarah H., Basin Spring, Texas.—It is quite proper for a Presbyterian preacher to marry a Baptist girl if she will have him. (2) It is just as well not to wear a young man's ring. (3) It is correct enough to accept costly presents from a rich brother-in-law. (4) Yes, an eighteen-year-old girl ought to know whether she loves a man or not. (5) The man must never take the woman's arm in walking.

Ida and Jennie, Concordia, Mo.—Let the young man who loves your sister follow his love. (2) Yes, ask the man who calls on you to call again, if you want him to come. (3) Don't trust the young man who tells you he loves you the first time he meets you.

Daisy, Bayonet, Ga.—(1) Ask your music teacher. (2) Wear your hair in the style most becoming to you, with some reference to prevailing fashion. (3) Don't ask the young man to come in when the family has retired. In the country it is not usual to accommodate a caller over night. (4) Don't address a young man as "My dear William" unless he is kin or your sweetheart. Oh, yes, a girl can very properly pin a bouquet on a young man's coat. But make him keep his distance.

Edith, Kibbourne, Ohio.—I should say girls of fourteen should not go to dances.

Blue Eyes, Johnstown, Pa.—You did perfectly right in resenting the attentions of the married man. He is a scoundrel to be shunned.

Blue Eyes, Springfield, Mo.—Your escort's duty at a dance or elsewhere is to you.

Lilac and Rose, Columbus, Ga.—Tell the young man once or twice how fond you are of opal rings. He will understand unless he is too stupid for any use. (2) It is silly to talk about winning a man's love, and sillier to marry a man thirty years older than you. (3) Better have a chaperone when riding twelve miles at night.

Ruth and Ruby, Grantville, Cal.—Ask the gentleman to lay his hat aside, or take it, just as you please. (2) A gentleman always tips his hat to a lady. (3) Always present the gentleman to the lady. (4) Yes, you may "keep company" with one young man and write to another, but don't say "keep company." (5) A young lady of thirty-one may receive the attentions of a man of fifty. (6) In the absence of your "best young man" you may accept the company of another to a dance.

S. Crow, Spring Ranch, Neb.—A young lady should not be "affectionate in company."

Margaret, Manitowoc, Wis.—Harper & Brothers, New York, Golden Days, Philadelphia, and Youth's Companion, Boston. (2) There are no lady detectives, popular in society. (3) A man engaged should be as loyal to his fiancée as if she were his wife. If he isn't she had better not marry him.

Little Rosebud, Modoc, Ills.—Don't marry the rich man because he is rich, nor the poor one because he is poor. Marry the man you love, if you can get him.

Violet Rose, Chicago, Ills.—Do not marry the young man if you feel ashamed of him. Wait a year and see if your mind doesn't change. (2) It is right for a girl to take care of the wages of the young man she intends to marry. (3) A core maker is a very good trade in good times. (4) June and October are the popular marrying months. (5) Kissing games are no longer fashionable.

B. C. Monette, S. C.—My advice to you is not to attempt story writing until you have read a great many.

Sunbeam, Paducah, Ky.—It is usual for engaged couples to exchange rings.

Laura and Gertrude, Plattsburg, Mo.—It is positively wrong for you to do what your mothers object to.

Alpha, White Pine, Tenn.—The young king of Spain is about fourteen now. (2) Sometimes advertisers furnish their own cuts and sometimes the publisher does. It depends upon contracts.

American Girl, Springfield, Ohio.—There is no call for nurses in the army unless they are trained to some extent. Write to Miss Clara Barton, Washington.

M. C. Plaquemine, La.—Wear a dress to your shoe tops, of almost any color except glaring colors. (2) The young man may give his photograph without being asked for it.

Kate and Helen, Sharpsburg, Pa.—It is very common and vulgar to talk to young men without an introduction to them, except under circumstances that will excuse it. (2) There is nothing to prevent tanning except to keep out of the sun. Any druggist will give you a formula to remove tan.

Two Cousins, Island Lake, N. D.—You can make your "beaus" respect you by being at all times lady-like and dignified. (2) You can reduce stoutness by dieting, but you should consult a physician. (3) Private dances are not at all improper if only proper people are invited. It is better, perhaps, if young girls did not dance the round dances.

M. M., Hazelton, Pa.—Fifteen-year-old girls should not go bicycling with young men. Fifteen-year-old girls should think of something else besides "beaus."

Two Girls, Collinsville, Ills.—It is the lady's place to speak first in meeting a gentleman on the street. (2) In answer to your other questions, let me say that first of all girls should be ladies. If they are they will not need to be asking about kissing and hugging.

Bess, Maudlin, H. S.—Ask your druggist. Any black mixture that hasn't acid or grease in it would answer. Have the waist of the costume made loose; it is classic that way.

Queenie, Lee, N. D.—A man may give his affianced a watch very properly. (2) Girls of seventeen are practically women, but they should still be largely governed by their parents in the matter of choosing friends. Do not be in a hurry to marry.

Sorrow, Rosendale, Mo.—Refuse to see the young man again and keep on refusing for one year. If he is still asking for you then, see him and tell him what you think of him. Men are deceivers ever.

Nora Brown, Ovilla, Texas.—Send the sixteen-year-old boy home to his mother.

Pansy, Acorn Ridge, Mo.—A cake-walk is an extravagant style of walking for exhibition purposes, and is so-called because a cake is the prize.

Daisy, Schulenburg, Texas.—It is perfectly proper for a girl to sing in her own house, but some say that a girl should never whistle. Why she should not I am unable to state.

Pansy, Lamoni, Iowa.—Ordinarily a girl might be more safely guided by her brother's advice as to a young man than by any other's. Most brothers think a great deal of their sisters.

Violet, Valatie, N. Y.—A girl that means right never flirts with "show fellows" or any other kind. You are old enough to know what is right.

Brownie, Illon, N. Y.—Don't worry about the young man. He will come around all right, and if he doesn't, it won't make much difference. He has no right to "get mad."

Now, dears, I must say au revoir, and meet you all again in May. Some of you who have not been answered over your own signatures will find answers to your questions in the answers to the others, for, bless your hearts, very many of you want to know about just the same thing. The world may be big, but men and women are the same all over. By by, till May. COUSIN MARION.

## ONE-TWO-ONE.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19.)

come so soon? Was this the personality of his dream seen in a "guise of angelhood," leading him out of a dark place into daisied meadows and running brooks?

This was she—Hildegard Graeme.

A month later he saw her again. A tall, heavy, florid, sensual looking piece of humanity stood with her while their baggage was being transferred to an outbound steamer. He had gone down to say good-by to the Delaplanes not knowing that the Graemes were of the party. The electricity of thought quickened his pulse; he was in a new world in her presence. He felt his blood stir as it had never stirred before! Herease of pose, her technique of movement, the inspiration of her eyes, her voice, appealed to him with masterful force. How he hated that man—her husband! The shame, the pity of it all, that she should have made such a sacrifice! Was this man or beast to whom she was tied with iron bonds? Delaplane had told him the story and a long one. The ward of a designing uncle, while yet but half blossomed into womanhood, she had been sold—to the highest bidder!

As the helpless victim of her uncle's treachery she had borne all in silence. The pain, the disgust, the outrage to all her finer feelings had left unhealing scars, but she hid them, and in heroic guise met the claims of life.

One had struck a sympathetic chord in her breast with the "rich melody of his matchless voice," but his path could only touch hers as the wind kisses the rose, and then passes on!

No ophthalmoscope were needed to examine the optic nerve and retina of this misapprehension—her husband!

A charcoal burner in Central Mexico might easily have been more of a man than Dorson Graeme. Ah, indeed! Civilization was a word of somewhat uncertain meaning. This was another act in the tragedy of his life—the man whose silent shadow would follow Hildegard Graeme forever!

Vernon Bernhall repressed the thrilling passion that he felt. He, too, had a cross to bear, and he must bear it manfully. Bear it as he had been bearing it, in stoical silence.

"I can but be a better man for having known her. I can subordinate myself better to duty for that knowing. To the touch of her hand the tiger in me might become a dove! Good-by, little one, in all the years to come you will rest upon my heart!"

No sound escaped his stern set lips, as with a formal bow he turned away.

Hildegard's voice spoke thus:

"I, by knowing him, have strength for all my future life! I will no longer groan under the wearisome burden of this earthly existence. To know that he lives—" her thoughts were wafted back to the swift, receding shores of her native land.

Two they had been in the atoms of the universe—they were One now—one for all eternity! What did the formal farewell matter! No longer was an unstilled thirst upon her—reaching out through the azure distances soul would hold its daily communion with soul despite the cruel severing of an inevitable fate!



AN industry in the gold trade which employs a large number of hands with no small amount of skill, is the beating of innumerable little square pieces of gold which are used to cover domes, signs, etc. The gold is received in bars an eighth of an inch thick, an inch wide and weighing 240 pennyweights. This is rolled into a ribbon 30 yards long. It is given to the workmen in strips of 7 yards—each of which is cut into 180 pieces. These pieces, protected by fine skins, are placed in a clutch and pounded—the gold as it spreads out being subdivided until it is of the exact dimensions required. It is beaten down to 200,000th of an inch, and is then rubbed with brine before being placed in skins, so it will not adhere to them. The workmen must know exactly how hard the blows of the hammer must be, and the exact spot they must fall—and although it appears to be easy work, it is in reality an art of a very delicate description.

## "OLD GLORY."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE origin of "Old Glory" is possibly not known to all the readers of COMFORT, and they may be glad to see a brief sketch as to how it came into existence.

The Continental Congress appointed a committee to prepare a national standard, and this committee visited General Washington, then at Cambridge, Mass., where a design was adopted by them which consisted of thirteen red and white stripes to represent the thirteen States, with the Cross of St. George in the upper staff corner. A little later a blue field with thirteen stars was used with the original red and white stripes, and a flag of this description was adopted by Congress on June 14th, 1777. The same design is still used—but with the admission of each new State to the Union another star has been added to the original thirteen, on the 4th of July following its admission. There are now, therefore, forty-five stars, and long may they wave!

## HEALING THE MULTITUDES.

Thousands of Wonderful Cures Being Made by the Great Healer.

The thousands of miraculous cures being performed by Prof. Weltmer, the great Nevada, (Mo.) healer, are creating wide-spread attention. It positively makes no difference what your affliction may be nor of how long standing, there is a positive and permanent cure for you in this method. Prof. Weltmer makes the lame walk, the deaf hear and the blind to see. He cures cancers, gottres, consumption, rheumatism and all other diseases known to science. All are eradicated with the same wonderful cure. Mr. F. W. Drummond, Garland, Kansas, was entirely blind; could not tell day from night. Five physicians told him he would never see again. He took three treatments from Prof. Weltmer and his sight was fully restored. Mr. J. W. Fletcher, a wealthy farmer living near Nevada, Mo., was on his deathbed, suffering from kidney and bladder troubles and appendicitis. He was at once raised up and permanently cured in three days by Prof. Weltmer. Mrs. T. L. Higbee, Schell City, Mo., suffered with an internal uterine cancer. Five doctors said she would surely die. Prof. Weltmer restored her health in two weeks. Prof. Weltmer also possesses the remarkable ability to cure people at a distance, and performs cures by this method that are simply astounding. No medicines or appliances whatever are used. This is the only method of treatment that will restore lost vitality and kindred ailments. A copy of the Magnetic Journal, a forty page illustrated magazine, giving a list of the most miraculous cures on record, will be sent free to any sufferer.

Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making \$10.00 to \$50.00 per day. Taught by mail or personal instructions. Address, Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., The American School of Magnetic Healing.

PROF. WELTMER.

TEACHES HIS ART TO OTHERS.

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## SUPERFLUOUS HAIR!

Harmless and instantaneous removal without pain or blemish to the skin. Absolutely guaranteed. Send for FREE booklet. MME. BENOIT, 45 E 42d St., N. Y. City.

A SPLENDID PROFESSION either as a teacher or as a student. Makes you independent for life. Enroll stamp. DR. P. BRAUN, Grand Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

\$4 PAID per 1,000 for distributing circulars, samples and booklets. 10 cts. for box and particulars. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. MALENA CO., Warriorsmark, Pa.

DRUNKENNESS. Liquor habit, cured at home, with or without knowledge of patient; fully guaranteed. Particulars sent. ROYAL CHEMICAL CO., Lima, O.

BICYCLE FREE OR CASH TO ANY ONE distributing my soap, etc. I trust you. F. Parker, 277 E. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

# Ladies' A \$1. BOX Free!

To show how quickly it will cure every form of female weakness, displacements, leucorrhoea, suppressed or painful periods, etc. For a short time to introduce it the Hazeline Co., 399 Bressler Block, South Bend, Ind., will send a \$1.00 box free by mail to every lady sending her name and address. It gives instant relief and never fails to cure. Write today and give it a trial. It costs you nothing.

## Dollars for Pennies.

"THE LIGHT THAT WON'T GO OUT."

Every family in America is ready to buy "The Light that will not go out"—the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK.

It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, consumes kerosene, kerosene gas, and almost equals electricity or gas.

It saves 50 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's the light that won't go out. It's the light in the window for the night.

The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavits showing that an Arc-Light burned 1000 hours, giving the last hour the same pure, brilliant light as the first.

A single lamp manufactured in New England, and sold all over the world, has been burning for over 1000 hours.

The Arc-Light Wick is a new invention. It is a new kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavits showing that an Arc-Light burned 1000 hours, giving the last hour the same pure, brilliant light as the first.

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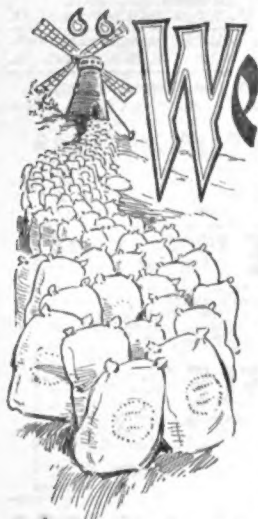






## A Nation of Oat-Eaters.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ARE getting to be a nation of oat-eaters," said Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson a day or two ago. "One of the most difficult things in the world is to persuade a people to adopt a new kind of food. That is the trouble with the introduction of our Indian corn in Europe, where maize is considered only good for beasts. In the same way, we Americans regarded oats as fit only for horses up to thirty odd years ago. During the period of the Civil War rice became very scarce, owing to interference with its production in the South. It so happened that a young Scotchman in this country took a notion that this shortage in the cereal crop might be compensated for by introducing oats as human fare. In Scotland, of course, oatmeal is a national dish, and this hard-headed person made up his mind that what was good for Scotchmen ought to be good for Americans. Accordingly he obtained control of a small mill in Ohio, and converted it into a mill to make oatmeal.

"This was the beginning of what has since grown to be an immense industry—namely, the manufacture of oatmeal. Of course, the new food acquired popularity very slowly, but it grew steadily in the appreciation of the people, and wise physicians, recognizing its extraordinary excellence as a diet, began to recommend it, particularly for children. Thus the production kept on increasing until in 1888 we exported 4,329,292 pounds of oatmeal. In 1896 we exported 47,310,251 pounds. That seems wonderful, does it not? Let me surprise you, then, still more by the information that in 1898 this country exported 85,500,270 pounds of oatmeal!

"There you have almost a doubling of the export in a twelvemonth. If you go back to 1884, you will find that we actually imported 1,195,948 pounds of oatmeal. About two-thirds of all the oatmeal now produced in the United States goes to Great Britain and one-fifth is bought from us by the Netherlands. I have not the figures in detail for 1898, but in 1897 we shipped 33,047,702 pounds of oatmeal to Great Britain, 9,873,138 pounds to the Netherlands, 2,891,132 pounds to Germany, 174,125 pounds to Austro-Hungary, 124,240 pounds to Denmark, 145,500 pounds to Norway and Sweden, 83,750 pounds to Belgium, 62,750 pounds to Italy and 21,560 pounds to Russia.

"The amazing growth of the popularity of oats as human food in this country is due to an increasing familiarity with its value in the diet. It contains a very large proportion of the substance that makes muscle and blood. This substance we call nitrogenous matter. You may consider any kind of cereal as being made up of nitrogenous matter and carbonaceous matter, the latter being a fuel or heat maker. In wheat flour the nitrogenous matter is to the carbonaceous matter as 1 is to 6 1-2; in oats it is 1 to 7; in barley and rye it is 1 to 8 1-2; in Indian corn it is 1 to 10. All you have to do is to look at these figures, in order to ascertain the comparative values of the different grains as food.

"Wheat, you see, comes first, having the largest proportion of muscle-forming substance. Oats, however, are next to wheat in this respect, and very close up. A laboring man can do a day's work on oats and nothing else; they furnish him with all that his body requires in the way of fuel and repair of tissue. He can do the same thing on wheat bread, and the soldier in the ranks, no matter how much he may grumble about hardtack, can fight his best on that diet. Hardtack, of course, is composed of flour and water simply.

"A great deal has been said lately as to enlarging the market abroad for cornmeal. If this can be accomplished, it will be of great advantage to the United States, inasmuch as we produce about 2,000,000,000 bushels of Indian corn annually. This cereal is readily transformed into meats, dairy products, starch, glucose, high wines, and various other marketable articles. It is the cheapest raw material produced by the farmer. However, the percentage of muscle-forming matter which it contains is low and therefore it cannot suitably replace grains that are richer in nitrogen. The laborer of Europe who can afford to have only one kind of grain on his table is able to work all day on barley-bread, black rye bread, oat cake, or oat porridge; but he cannot accomplish the same results with cornmeal alone.

"On the other hand, the well-to-do European who can afford to put on his table meats, fish or cheese, to supply the requisite nitrogen, finds the American corn-bread a valuable addition to his diet. He does so, that is to say, if he can be induced to relinquish his prejudice against maize. This indicates the direction in which we should try to push our Indian corn abroad. We should try to introduce it not among the laboring classes, but among the well-to-do.

"The lack of nitrogen in corn is illustrated by the fact that while you can fatten a steer on maize after he has attained his growth, you cannot grow the young animal on corn. A cow will give plenty of milk when fed on oats, barley, rye, or wheat, but if you give her corn only, she will stop yielding milk and will promptly fatten.

"Oats are destined to become steadily more popular in this country as food for human beings. As I have said, we are becoming a nation of oat-eaters. It is a good sign and promises well for the future of the country and its people."

## Silk from Spiders.



Ta certain ball in South Africa not very long ago, the hostess wore a dress made of spider's silk. More than a hundred years ago, a French scientist made an attempt to utilize the silk spun by a spider, and since then several experiments have been made in that line. One man succeeded in having a pair of socks and a

pair of mittens made from the silk. These articles were carefully examined and pronounced genuine, but as reported, "the game was hardly worth the candle." It took ninety spider threads to equal one silk thread in strength, and one hundred and eighty to make a thread strong enough to sew with. It takes twice as many spiders as silk worms to make a given amount of silk and it would have taken twenty-eight thousand cocoons to make one pound of silk. An English manufacturer obtained some large tropical spiders and kept them in a warm room into which he caused a liquid composed of chloroform, ether and alcohol to evaporate. The result was satisfactory in regard to the production of the silk, but as it brought the cost of the silk up to one hundred and fifty dollars a pound, it didn't seem to be favorable to the manufacture of silk for dresses.

The reflection from a flash of lightning travels nearly two million times faster than the sound of the report.

Russia is a huge farm, comprising one-seventh of the land surface of the globe, and one-twenty-sixth of its total area.

The first newspaper published in America was the Boston News Letter, established in 1704. It was a half sheet of paper, twelve inches by eight, with two columns on a page. It lived seventy-two years. George Washington after his first retirement in 1783, became convinced of the defective nature of the working animals employed in the agriculture of the Southern States. He set about remedying the difficulty by introducing mules to be used instead of horses. The King of Spain sent him some mules from the royal stables in Madrid, and Washington set about breeding these animals. This is practically the origin of the mule in the United States.

## WE ARE Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness 'feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say \$25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

## THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address, G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

## CONSTIPATION

"I have gone 14 days at a time without a movement of the bowels, not being able to move them except by using hot water injections. Chronic constipation for seven years placed me in this terrible condition; during that time I did everything I heard of but never found any relief; such was my case until I began using CASCARETS. I now have from one to three passages a day, and if I was rich I would give \$100.00 for each movement; it is such a relief."

AYLMER L. HUNT,  
1689 Russell St., Detroit, Mich.



Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good, Do Good, Never Sickens, Weakens, or Grips, 10c, 20c, 50c.

... CURE CONSTIPATION. ...  
Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago, Montreal, New York, 323

RUBBER GOODS of all kinds. Special Novelties.  
Cat's free. HAZELTINE CO., Toledo, O.

HANDSOME MUSTACHE OR LOVELY HAIR  
Grown with our TURKISH HAIR GROWER in three weeks or money refunded. No more bald heads or smooth faces. We warrant every package and offer \$100.00 for the quickest, surest, also TREMONT MANUFACTURING CO., STATION A, BOSTON, MASS.



us 10c, silver or 15c, stamps to cover expense of postage, mailing, addressing & packing, and we will send you the paper for three months free. Every one can have their choice of Breakfast, Dinner or Tea Set Free. All Sets carefully boxed & packed at our expense.

POPULAR FASHIONS, NEW YORK CITY, DEPT. 172 A. P. O. BOX 2617.

## How to Cure Rupture.

(Copyrighted.)

It gives us pleasure and satisfaction to write these words of hope to the ruptured. Not what caused but what will cure your rupture is what we wish to write about. The most common are, Ventral, Scrotal, Umbilical, and Femoral. If rupture can be returned to natural position it is called reducible; if not it is irreducible. The last is caused by wearing a poor truss, or going without one. Don't deceive yourself by saying, "No other cause is dangerous, no other the cause of so many painful surgical operations. Nothing else causes a man to lose his health and life." It allows one intestine to come down; this causes strangulation from the great pressure required to move the contents. You have suffered for years, tried every device, spent many dollars—the result has been failure. The old style truss is now gone forever, except in a few cases where some one has a lot on hand, and persuades a sufferer to buy one who does not know the difference. When the elastics were introduced, many exclaimed here is at last a perfect truss, giving nature a chance to repair the damage that has been done. Nature heals a broken bone, or bruise, or cut, if given the right chance; so it will a rupture. The inventor of this truss is Rev. J. Hayden, chaplain of the 15th Maine regiment, who well remembered the blue and gray for his many acts of kindness. This is what he says:— "Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an older brother, who had the same trouble. He said, 'I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent more money on trusses and operations than I have in the best I ever had; it cost me \$25 (it was an elastic truss), but it is breaking, and I must get another.' On examination, I found an elastic strap around him, with every stitch of the sewing machine, and every part of the truss. The thought that passed through my mind was, 'What a relief! I have reflected on the miseries of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and consider that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure-fitting, year-failing remedy, and by proven to be in my own and other cases, and which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate. I feel that it would be a great wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me; for, as I value my honor in the world, and my own soul, I will sell it to you at a fair price, the charge being according to the work done, and we will not exceed \$10. It takes from sixty days to six months to cure. The terms are fair, and we will not deviate from them.

You can be Cured Free. Send us with your order the names of all the ruptured people you know; when we send our truss to six of them we will refund you \$1 and give you the truss. We will not, without your permission, tell you the names, or as you will know it to be all we claim, you can, truthfully recommend it. There will be no doubt of your getting six orders. You can send the amount of money less the \$1 you have paid us, and thus get yours free.

What We Claim. A truss that cures, worn day and night, needs no changing, no matter what your position is, you do the hardest work the same as if you had no rupture. Easy as a stocking. For simplicity, comfort, durability, and effectiveness cannot be equalled. Cool and comfortable in warm weather. No parts to chafe, no understraps, nothing to absorb foul odor from the body, always in place, always comfortable, always healing. Will last a hundred years. Our truss is for men, women, children, and infants, and fits all kinds of ruptures. Fleishy people will find a great relief. No hot bands around you. The only truss that women and infants can wear and be easy and cleanly.

Will you, after reading these few plain and truthful statements, continue in misery with a poor truss, or risk your life by going without? Dare you lay this aside without giving it a trial, which costs you nothing? Do you think it like humbug advertisements you have seen? If so, write to the postmaster, the bankers, any business man, for city official. We own and occupy one of the largest blocks in this city. Men, women, and children use the same measure blanks. The U. S. Government allowed Rev. J. Hayden a patent, No. 400,454. Is not that alone sufficient proof that it is a wonderful invention? Send for book of testimonials or circulars. We have cured many, we can cure you if you will let us. It costs a great many dollars for each line of this ad. each time it appears, so we have to be brief as possible. We could fill this whole paper with testimonials. Here are a few:

The Postmaster says: "I have examined the letters from which these testimonials were taken, and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Surehold truss."

Westbrook, Me. This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Alexander Speirs, and consider him responsible for any contracts he may make, and strictly reliable."

KING S. RAYMOND, Mayor.

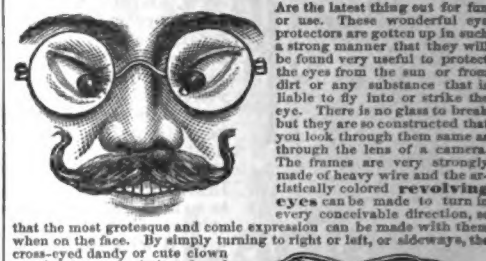
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8,000 are very anxious for some one to MARRY  
homes; lists, &c., free. FAITHFUL MESSENGER, Chicago.

BED-WETTING CURED  
Sample Free. Dr. F. E. MAY, Bloomington, Ill.  
MAGIC SPECTACLES

that the most grotesque and comic expression can be made with them when on the face. By simply turning to right or left, or sideways, the cross-eyed dandy or cute clown can be instantly imitated and bushes of fun be had. Or, as will be seen by the reverse side of the rubber hung centers, they are plain, useful, every day spectacles. They are having a great sale. Will send a pair free with a 10c. three months' subscription to "NATIONAL FARMER." Agents make money with them. Ask for terms when you send for trial pair.

NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

MIZPAH PESSARY  
An unexcelled Uterine Supporter.  
The center tube holds it in position, and it cannot become misplaced. It is soft, light, and comfortable, easily placed in position, and just as easily removed. Ask your Druggist, or send for descriptive circular to WALTER F. WADE, 512 Arch St., Phila.

## 56 PIECES FREE

Full-Size, for Families.  
There is no fake about this; send your address at once. Every person answering this advertisement can get a Handsomely Decorated Set, absolutely free—we mean it. There is no trick, no juggling with words, nothing but what is honest. Our offer is in black & white, no misrepresentation of any sort; everybody can receive & take advantage of it, & we positively will not go back on it no matter what it costs us. We wish to put our paper on top, & will do anything to get it in the lead quickly. It is one of the best & most interesting Fashion, News & Story Papers in existence. You can prove all we say, the absolute TRUTH, if you will send us 10c. silver or 15c. stamps to cover expense of postage, mailing, addressing & packing, and we will send you the paper for three months free. Every one can have their choice of Breakfast, Dinner or Tea Set Free. All Sets carefully boxed & packed at our expense.

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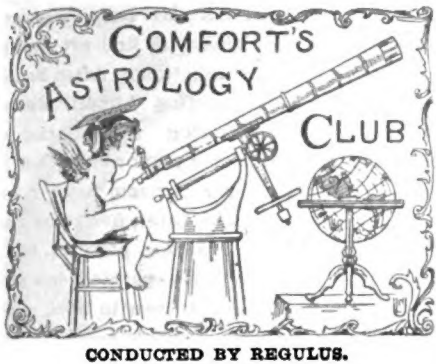
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**I**N May, the Moon reaches the place of the Sun, forming the New Moon, where she begins her new journey around the Zodiac, at about thirty minutes past noon of the 9th of the month. The figure set for that moment of time at Washington, the seat of our government, shows the first degrees of Virgo rising and the last degrees of Taurus culminating. The conjoined Sun and Moon are therefore only a half hour past the south meridian in the 9th house. Neptune has not yet come to the meridian but is in the 10th house nearly opposite to Saturn who with Herschel is in the 4th house. Jupiter is in the 3rd; Mars is in the rising part of the heavens in the 12th house in trine with Venus in the 8th also in trine with Herschel in the 4th house.

Mercury is ruler of the scheme and is found on the cusp of the 9th house in trine with the Ascendant and in trine with Saturn in the 4th house. The Lunation forms while both luminaries are separating from adverse rays of Mars and Jupiter and has no evil rays; while Mercury the ruler of the figure is without affliction from any heavenly body. This figure indicates our recent passage through some minor squalls upon the national sea, some evidences of strife between capital and labor, and excitement of unusual character in matters affecting our financial world and probably ecclesiastical connections and detriment to our shipping and railway values.

The great malefics in the 4th are not promising of good to our agricultural interests, being likely to give us some harm to growing crops either through cold and gloomy or stormy atmospheres particularly near the latter days of the lunation or from excessive rains or floods in the northern sections of our country. Mars in the 12th indicates harm to prisoners and cautions keepers of places of detention to be on the lookout for violence from inmates. Postal authorities should take unusual precautions for avoidance of loss of property or detriment to the mails through disorder or violence, especially in our southeastern regions or possessions. We shall hear of much merry making and sporting in our southwestern regions, increased production of wines and luxuries of life.

Mercury on the 9th and the lunation falling on the 9th, give strong indications of an extraordinary increase in travel to foreign countries. Mercury is the herald of a busy period for artists, scientists, and literary and church men; shows advancement in arts and sciences, new inventions and the spread of education and civilization in our southwestern sections.

The figure, for own country is on the whole quite favorable, bearing out as it does our general progress and advancement shown in the more important figure for the Sun's ingress in March.

Mars in Leo is evil for France and is likely to show the continuance of strife and disorder in that storm-tossed country. Political excitement runs high in France, Italy and Spain, where fires and crimes run a kind of epidemic.

#### CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR MAY, 1899.

**MAY 1—Monday.** The month begins with a fair day for most of the affairs of life, though a greater degree of success than usual is due for transactions with manufacturers and persons in the mechanical callings, also for chemical experiments; being peculiarly favorable for such persons as were born about the last days of March or September, of past years.

**2—Tuesday.** This day gives favorable conditions for vigorous prosecution of all the elegant occupations, fine arts; for dealings in fancy wares and furnishings, jewelry etc.; urge musical and dramatic engagements and studies and urge thy suit with the fair sex. Have care, however, in these days and especially during the forenoon of this day, to avoid disputes or quarrels of all kinds; look out for fires and explosions, and particularly avoid any unusual excitement if the heart be constitutionally afflicted or has shown any unusual disturbance in the last six or eight months. We are still in the midst of conditions which conduce to increased combustibility in nature and which promote destruction of values by fires and violent explosions. Let all have care in this respect, especially if born about the last days of January, April, July or October of past years. Prevailing conditions for several weeks have been such as render probable a marked increase of blood troubles, scrofulous annoyances, boils, carbuncles, and eruptions generally, and we shall be wise if we have availed ourselves promptly of the preventives and correctives which science affords. The afternoon and evening of this day are recommended for mental labors and literary undertakings of consequence; urge correspondence and the adjustment of accounts.

**3—Wednesday.** Actively pursue thy several avocations during all this day, giving preference, however, to the forenoon for dealings in real estate, boots and shoes, dyes, wool, coal and all kinds of building materials. Artists and musicians have more than the ordinary executive abilities in their special callings, especially if born about the last days of March, July, September, or November, of past years, and such persons should diligently prosecute their several callings.

**4—Thursday.** Let every moment of this day be improved; pursue studies and all the literary avocations; journey, and push all kinds of business, especially with lawyers, merchants, tradesmen, printers, publishers and all ingenious persons; literary efforts will in general be successful; do all important correspondence, engage help and make each moment count; musical and dramatic entertainments give unusual pleasure and satisfaction in the evening and social matters are happily affected; seek advancement or favor from thine employer in the last hours of the day, when also apply to public officials for benefits of a public nature.

**5—Friday.** Ask no favors from thy landlord in the forenoon nor look for benefits from dealings with contractors or any persons engaged in the dirty avocations of life; indecision and forgetfulness will be common faults of the early hours; but as the noon hour is approached conditions mend rapidly and for many hours very favorable influences prevail, which tend to promote success in all honorable undertakings; particular stress is put upon the suggestion that all literary labors be pushed to the utmost and that commercial enterprises be inaugurated with vigor.

**6—Saturday.** Improve this day fully for all the ingenious and mechanical trades and all avocations, and especially for chemical experiments and processes; deal in cattle, metals, and with chemists, founders, physicians, tailors, and military men, also electricians, druggists, inventors of machinery and electrical appliances; take the time for dealing in ornamental goods, wearing apparel, furnishings and all things pertaining to the pleasures and gratifications of mankind.

**7—Sunday.** A most excellent day for intellectual and religious matters; the mind will be especially active and capable of close application; the judgment is acute and clear, and extemporaneous speaking should abound in rhetoric, good logic, and elegant sentiment. It is rare that so favorable combinations occur in such force within the limits of a day.

**8—Monday.** Be circumspect in act and deed with reference to all speculative ventures; hold fast the purse-strings; defer making contracts, particularly with landlords or concerning houses or lands; and bridle the tongue as the evening draws nigh, when also see that no risks of fire are taken, being especially careful in handling combustibles and explosives.

**9—Tuesday.** The middle hours of this day are the

best; in them urge all correspondence and literary matters generally; sign contracts other than concerning real estate, engage servants, travel, deal with teachers and divines, lawyers and judges and all engaged in the intellectual pursuits; do not, however, have any dealings with usurers or persons in public office or with the very aged.

**10—Wednesday.** This day promises but little of moment; do not expect any favor from public officers, railway officials, inventors, nor persons noted for eccentricities of dress or habits, especially as the day draws to its close.

**11—Thursday.** Another of the very favorable days of the month; the forenoon is peculiarly fortunate for surgeons, military men, cutlers, and all who deal in or employ sharp instruments or fire in their avocations; it is good also for compounding drugs and chemicals, for fine machine work, weaving, painting and all musical execution; for workers in wax, embroiderers, milliners, dressmakers, and all art workers; the drama will be more enjoyable than usual in the evening.

**12—Friday.** Ask no favors from thy landlord in the early hours; look for much benefit from dealings with contractors or any persons engaged in the dirty avocations of life; give preference to the middle hours for urging all correspondence, for dealings with booksellers, publishers, stationers and all engaged in the intellectual pursuits; use the afternoon for buying goods for trade and having transactions with banks and persons of wealth and station.

**13—Saturday.** Usurers and money lenders will prove expensive and disagreeable if dealt with on this day, and old persons generally are to be avoided; do not make any beginning of magnitude in the forenoon hours, nor be surprised if thou art baffled greatly in thy undertakings.

**14—Sunday.** Rather an unpromising day; let quarrels and contentions be guarded against, nor should pulpit utterances be aggressive or offensive, since they would be more likely thus to hurt than to help.

**15—Monday.** Have particular care in all commercial transactions in the forenoon hours; the time will develop much fraud and deception in banking circles; sign no money obligations or contracts; be very cautious about extending credit; and postpone transacting business with lawyers; the afternoon is better than the morning particularly for transactions with persons in the elegant pursuits.

**16—Tuesday.** The day after the morning hours should be improved with vigor, provided judgments be not too hastily formed—a day for sharp and incisive will rather than sound judgment—rashness and combativeness will be especially observable; give preference to the afternoon hours for the most important transactions of the day; especially if they be concerning money or commercial ventures.

**17—Wednesday.** Use this day for forwarding thy ventures pertaining to the artistic life, especially if such efforts be directed towards real estate improvements or furnishings, architectural work, horticulture, finishings and decorations; seek no favor or advantage at the hands of thine employer during the middle hours of the day but pursue all the elegant work of life in the afternoon hours; when also enter into important commercial contracts and have thy dealing with money men and institutions.

**18—Thursday.** Scrutinize thy business enterprises born on this day and have care that thou art not misled by extravagant representations or over-flattering appearances; beware of extraordinary speculative ventures, especially in stocks; as the time may witness some unusual fluctuations in prices.

**19—Friday.** A singularly evil day; enter not upon any new business, for no permanent pecuniary advantage will accrue from such now begun; beware of dealings in real estate and generally of parting with thy money in the hope of gain.

**20—Saturday.** A vigorous and energetic day; seek favor or advantage from persons in authority, officers of large corporations, railroad employees and all government officers.

**21—Sunday.** The conditions on this Sabbath day are specially conducive to eloquent and energetic efforts from the pulpit and for the appreciation and enjoyment of the best qualities in literature.

**22—Monday.** Seek not the fair sex nor expect much success in the elegant or artistic pursuits in the first half of this day; the latter part of the afternoon should have the preference for the principal ventures and undertakings of the day, especially in connection with money matters and for dealings with wealthy persons; the late night hours promote combustion and are likely to give unusual activity to the fire department.

**23—Tuesday.** Have caution in the use of the pen on this day and be not too ready to indulge thy tastes and appetites; postpone thy real estate dealings for a season; see that extravagant inclinations are checked and that the purse strings are held securely; look out for fires again in the evening.

**24—Wednesday.** Be in no haste to launch thine undertakings of magnitude in the morning hours, for hindrances and disappointments are more likely to accompany such efforts; as the noon hour is approached, however, let all thine energies be put forth in forwarding thine undertakings already in hand, but do not make new beginnings.

**25—Thursday.** Give preference to the middle hours of the day for thy principal efforts, especially in connection with the manufacturing and mechanical trades; when also deal with the machinist, engineer, traveler, tanner, brewer, founder, and dealer in cattle and metals. Particularly shun officers of large corporations and government officials and employees.

**26—Friday.** Enter into no contract concerning real estate in the first half of this day, when also avoid thy landlord and postpone thy dealings with very aged persons; after the noon hours let all honorable undertakings be crowded to the utmost; buy goods for trade; seek money accommodations, and have transactions with banks and persons of wealth.

**27—Saturday.** Let the elegant avocations be vigorously prosecuted during the middle hours of this day; when also deal in fancy and decorative goods. The day is not auspicious for the beginning of any great undertaking, and great caution will need to be exercised to prevent being misled by false and flattering promises of new schemes and enterprises now presenting themselves. This caution is particularly enjoined upon persons born about the 24th of February, 27th of May, or August, or the 30th of November, of past years, and such persons will be particularly wise to safeguard the health in these perilous days; seeing caution in threatening symptoms of liver and bowels and lung troubles are promptly treated.

**28—Sunday.** The mind is especially active in the morning and religious discourses will be earnest and eloquent.

**29—Monday.** Look carefully to the purse in the forenoon, scrutinizing expenditures rigidly and indulging not in money speculations; seek favor from public officials during the middle hours of the day; shun the fair sex in the early afternoon, but expect pleasure and satisfaction from the social, musical or dramatic entertainment of the evening.

**30—Tuesday.** Mixed and conflicting influences prevail at this time; beware of signing thy name to any important writings; scrupulously sign contracts and be doubly watchful against thievery; let counsellors and judges be slow in decisions; let all have care in handling combustibles and explosives; the afternoon is the better part of the day and should be employed for urging all routine matters and enterprises already in hand.

**31—Wednesday.** The very early and very late hours are the best; but do not depend upon the middle hours for new work; business propositions presenting themselves for the first time during the middle hours are likely to be delusive and unprofitable, nor should any favor be looked for in thy dealings with government officials or persons generally in authority; the musical and dramatic engagements of the evening will prove very enjoyable and unusually successful.

#### DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhoea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address, Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 71, Kokomo, Ind.

For twenty-five years after the first invention of metallic pens they were made entirely by hand.

#### LADIES I Make Big Wages

—AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay \$15 weekly. I send you money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.

#### YOUR BUST ENLARGED

Failure Impossible. 1000 Testimonials. Send two cents for full particulars. AURUM MEDICINE CO., Dept. A.N., 55 State St., Chicago

## RESCUE FOR WEAK MEN

Prof. Jules Laborde's Wonderful French Preparation of "CALTHOS" that Restores Lost Manhood.

FIVE DAYS' TRIAL TREATMENT Absolutely Free by Sealed Mail.

NO C. O. D., OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.



The marvelous French remedy, "CALTHOS," recently introduced in this country by the Von Mohl Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, one of the largest, richest and most responsible business firms in the United States, has attracted the attention of the entire medical profession because of the wonderful cures it has effected. If you suffer from Lost Manhood, Varicocele, Weakness of any nature in the Sexual Organs or Nerves, (no matter how caused), or if the parts are undeveloped or have shrunk or been wasted away "CALTHOS" will restore you.

"CALTHOS" is a French discovery by Prof. Jules Laborde, famed in Paris as France's foremost specialist. "CALTHOS" is the only remedy recognized by the medical profession as a specific cure for weak men.

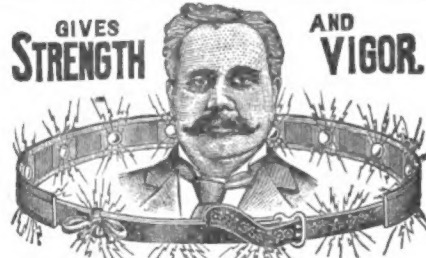
It has the endorsement of the German and French governments and is largely used in the standing armies of those countries.

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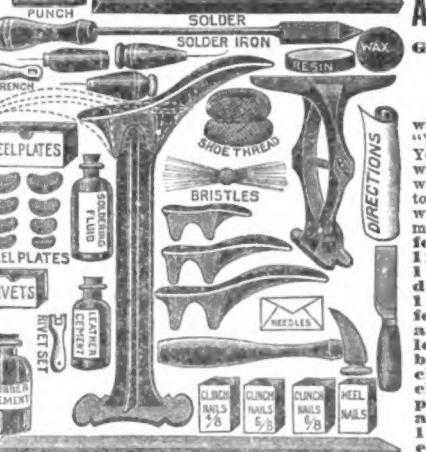
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## Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Mataafa, the claimant to the throne of Samoa has three times found his way blocked to the semblance of regal honors that the Kingship of Samoa gives. Seventy years of age, worn and broken he is yet the ablest man, the best fitted to rule in the kingdom. Mataafa was one of the two vice kings when Germany deposed the weak inefficient Malietoa Lanepapa and set up in his place his assistant Samoese. The natives rebelled and tried to make Mataafa king. England, Germany and America were drawn into the dispute and it seemed at one time that war between the great powers would result. The great storm that wrecked the battleship in the harbor at Apia will never be forgotten. The great disaster brought the nations to a calmer view and the Berlin treaty of 1891 was made. Equal powers of residence, trade and personal protection were given the three nations. The Samoan Government was declared independent and the people were to be allowed to choose their king. A Supreme Court consisting of one Judge was constituted. He was to be selected by the three powers, or if they failed to agree by the King of Norway and Sweden. The deposed Malietoa was also replaced on the throne. Mataafa had been made king by the nation but he yielded his place and became a sort of prime minister. He was a strong and brave man and the king was weak. They could not work together and Mataafa withdrew in a dignified manner to Malietoa. The people of Samoa universally desired him to be king and outbreaks in his favor were frequent. Finally Germany demanded that he be exiled to the Marshall Islands. Early last year, the poor weak king died and his no less weak son Malietoa Sanus wishes the throne. The Germans now thought that Mataafa might be useful to them and brought him back from exile. The nation that had always been against him now advocated his claim. At the time of the Berlin treaty they hated him and by a clause of the treaty he was debarred from rule. The people elected Mataafa king by a vast majority, but upon the submission of the election to the Chief Justice, it was declared that Mataafa was barred by the Berlin treaty. William M. Chambers an Alabamian is the present justice. The decision has brought the situation to a crisis that resembles that of 1891. War ships of the three nations are again in the beautiful harbor of Apia. Quiet, noble, dignified, the old Mataafa awaits a decision. Robert Louis Stevenson who knew him well declared him more fit to be king than any one in Samoa. Mataafa is a devout Catholic, a strong, just kindly man. The very nation that now urges his claim to kingship inserted the clause which the American justice declares renders his election void. The outcome is one of great interest to three nations and again the three flags flutter in the Samoan sunshine and the people and the patient old Mataafa await the result.

Abbas II., Khedive of Egypt is the nominal ruler of one of the most ancient countries in the world. He has little opportunity to show any strength as a ruler but Abbas Pasha has proved himself a skillful man of affairs in all that relates to his private business. He speaks five languages fluently—English, German, French, Arabic and Turkish. He was educated in Vienna and Switzerland. The Khedive is below the middle height and has shown a tendency towards stoutness. His large dark eyes have the dreamy expression of the East but their owner shows a hard practical business sense worthy of a Yankee. He rises at daybreak and spends the time until eight o'clock in an inspection of his estates. These are conducted in a European manner, a Scotch balliff from the Agricultural College at Gizeh being in charge. After breakfasting, the Khedive drives into Cairo and spends his morning in the official business



of Egypt. Any person with a grievance may drop a petition in a slit of the palace wall. After three o'clock the official day is over and the time until evening is spent upon the estate. The opera or some social affair occupies the evenings not spent with his family. The Khedive aside from the public property which he holds is a large private landholder. For some years he has been in the habit of purchasing lands that are seemingly worthless and bringing them under cultivation by the engineering skill of Europeans. He purchased an estate of nearly 10,000 acres, only 178 acres being productive. Over fifty miles of drainage canals were constructed and 1500 acres are now arable. Abbas II. shows his European training but in spite of it all he is an Oriental with the mental attitude characteristic of the East.

Monsieur Emile Loubet has just been chosen seventh president of the third French Republic. He was elected on one ballot of the Republican party. He has long been a prominent figure in political life. He comes from the south of France and is a plain, practical, hard-headed man from the middle walks of life. He was a well-known provincial lawyer before he entered public life. He has a thickset figure and a massive Roman head. In 1871 he was elected Senator and was made Minister of Public Works. Under Carnot he was Prime Minister and took the portfolio of the Interior. This ministry he was forced to resign on account of the Panama scandal but Mr. Loubet was in no way implicated. He was again chosen to the Senate and was elected its President in 1896 and again last year. He held this position when chosen President of France. He is much beloved in his home province and has the respect of all the foreign nations.



Agoncillo, the Filipino agent to this country, is the type of an educated native. He has a certain amount of native shrewdness and intelligence. He can hardly claim to rank with his teachers of diplomacy—the Spaniards. Agoncillo has talked very freely up to the beginning of actual hostilities. When he left Washington for Montreal he claimed that the move was to secure advices from Aguinaldo. The outbreak of war recalled him to the Philippines. He is a slight, undersized man with a rather weak face.

Aguinaldo, the famous leader of the Philippine insurgents is hardly the savage that some of the paragraphers picture him to be. His gold whistle is the outward sign of his only weak spot and that is an enormous vanity. He looks like a fragile, unformed boy with stooping shoulders and narrow chest. He has marked Mongolian features with the high cheek bones, oblique eyes, short nose and thick lips of the race. His skin is deeply pitted from the ravages of smallpox. His face is smooth, with no sign of a beard but his hair is abundant, coarse and black. Aguinaldo has an extremely nervous manner, never remaining quiet for one moment. His love of display is shown by his sign of authority, a gold whistle and by a large solitaire diamond which he wears upon his left hand. His face has the appearance of being slightly drawn to one side, a peculiar distortion common among the Filipinos. The foreign residents of Manila have long considered Aguinaldo as the smartest Filipino in the island and his rise to leadership has been no surprise.

Miss Beatrice Herford is a young American woman who is widely known for her great success as a reader. She writes her own monologues which are character sketches of familiar English and American types. From the moment she appears before her audience she ceases to be Miss Herford and the character that she is personating lives before her audience. Miss Herford in private life is the wife of S. W. Hayward. She is the daughter of a Boston clergyman, the late Rev. Brooke Herford. As a child she was fond of the "make believe" of the average child but her favorite character was "Mrs. Roller". This name she had seen on a door plate and it seemed to her to be very

elegant and high-sounding. So as "Mrs. Roller" she made frequent calls upon her family. This instinctive love of mimicry grew as the child grew. She began to imitate people to entertain her friends. Her brother is the well-known artist, Oliver Herford, and Miss Herford studied art for several years spending most of her time in London. All this time, she says she was pining to act. Finally her friends urged that she try some of her mimicry in public. Henry James, the well-known author, Zangwill, Bernard Shaw and William Archer were invited and Miss Herford gave a recital. Her success was assured. From that day she has devoted her talent to monologue entertainment. Her work at first was as a drawing-room entertainer but during the past winter she has drawn audiences that filled many of the best New York theaters. She writes her own monologues and never attempts to imitate men. She keeps a notebook in which she carefully notes the idioms, mannerisms and speech of people with whom she comes in contact. This is instinctive with her. She says she sometimes tries not to watch people but she comes in tired out and then realizes that she has been carefully noticing all the people she has met. She does not practice in front of a glass. She tried it once and found herself so self conscious that all the spontaneity was gone from her work. The Sociable Seamstress is one of her best liked monologues. It is the delicate realism of her work that has given Miss Herford her high rank.

Miss Evelyn Fletcher is the inventor of a new method of teaching music to children. By her way, music, the language of the soul is made an open book to the child. Toys, games, songs and stories are used and the sense of touch plays a most important part in the method. The system has met with the approval of many eminent musicians and has been introduced into the New England Conservatory of Music, the Temple College of Music and also in leading musical institutions in London and Toronto. Miss Fletcher comes of a musical family. Miss Fletcher is a Canadian but was educated in England. She plays both the violin and piano, studying these instruments in Belgium, Germany and Switzerland for nearly five years. It was while teaching music to a class of children in Toronto that the idea of formulating her method occurred to Miss Fletcher. She now has her headquarters in New York and devotes her time to training teachers in her method. She has been asked to demonstrate her method before the Royal Academy of Music in London and will soon go abroad for that purpose. The teachers who have studied her method have formed a club known as the Fletcher Musical Association. They publish a journal and report to one another any new plans or suggestions. As a child Miss Fletcher deeply regretted that she was not a boy so that she might engage in her father's profession of law. She now feels that the aid she is giving to the advance of a knowledge of music may add as much to the progress of the world as the work that seemed to her young mind more important.

Cat shows and cat lore and literature have become somewhat prominent of late, but John H. Dolph has long appreciated the charms of Grimalkin. His pictures of cats long since made him famous. So thoroughly has he become identified with his line of work that many people are surprised to know that Dolph ever painted anything but cats. That he attained distinction in this line is the result of a happy accident. His earlier pictures were of home-life on the farm. He had always wished to paint animals and in his first trip abroad studied with Louis Van Knyck at Antwerp. Van Knyck had won great fame as a painter of horses. On Dolph's return he found it necessary to produce an immediate "pot boiler." He found a little frame in his studio and cutting a canvass to fit it painted the nearest subject. This chanced to be a kitten that was frisking around the room. The picture sold instantly for one hundred dollars. Other cats were painted and by 1875, Dolph had become

known as the Cat Artist. Mr. Dolph was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where his first art studies were made under the direction of Allen Smith. He succeeded in supporting himself during this time by decorating the interior of passenger coaches. Some years were spent in Detroit and Chicago as a portrait painter and artist of genre subjects. Later, five years were spent in New York. Hunting pictures, figure subjects and portraits were painted but sales were slow until his great success in 1875. Once since then he has given up his specialty and painted what he liked. For five years he studied the architecture of Paris and the history of France and filled his studio with paintings and studies of the time of Louis XIII. The public would have none of it. It was Dolph's cats that it demanded and cats it would have. Mr. Dolph is a large, handsome man with an inexhaustible fund of stories and good nature. His New York studio is in the Sherwood building but he has a country home at Ardsley, N. Y., where the cats who have showed him the path to fame and fortune frolic unmolested.

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